North Arm Methodist
Community Affairs File
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Methodism's 200th Jubilee Celebration Year

Paris Beacon-News 12-7-84

Churches (W.V.)

Community A

Dedicate Monument Sunday To Mark Start Of Methodist Church In Area At North Arm In 1819

BY JENNY BARKLEY
Beacon News Staff

An inscription bearing the United Methodist Bicentennial emblem and proclaiming that the "North Arm Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church in Central Illinois... which served this area from 1819 to 1954" adorns the monument to be erected Sunday, one mile west of the site of the original church building. The marker commemorates the importance of the former North Arm Chapel to the history of Edgar County and also to the early history of the United Methodist Church.

In conjunction with the Bicentennial "200th Jubilee Celebration" of the United Methodist movement in the United States, the site is being recognized as one of the first churches established west of the Wabash River.

During public ceremonies scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, John Beatty of Martinsville, bicentennial chairman for the district, the Rev. Richard Chrisman, conference historian and former minister of the Chrisman United Methodist Church now serving in Mason City, will provide the program and commentary on the historical signifigance of the church.

Much of the credit for the establishment of this early church belongs to a Methodist man named Joseph Curtis, who was the first Illinois nurseryman and early preacher of the North Arm Church. Curtis and his wife, Hannah, established their home on the Illinois prairie in 1818.

The history of the church is entwined with the personal history of Joseph Curtis, and together they provide Edgar County residents with a glimpse into their past.

It was perhaps an editorial from the Daily Beacon-News on Dec. 5, 1939, following the 120th celebration of the North Arm Church that inspired the erection of this marker. The editorial by E.H. Jenison stated, "It would seem altogether proper... to place a suitable marker at the North Arm Methodist church in Edgar county. Some fine work has been done in the preservation of Edgar County history in the past. More could be done with profit to present and future generations. Recognition at North Arm Church would be a splendid point at which to start."

A committee in this year of 1984 has devoted its efforts to this end. Members of the committee were Amelia Black, Philip Dickenson, Pauline Haddix and Paul J. Stafford.

Excerpts from earlier writings record the following account of the history of the Curtis family and the former North Arm Chapel.

Joseph Curtis was born May 29, 1786, in Burlington County, N.Y. He moved to Adams County, Ohio, with his family when he was a child. By the age of 16 he had acquired considerable knowledge as a nurseryman through information learned from working in his father's orchard and on the farm. Through experimentation he had become proficient at new methods of root grafting, which he freely taught to Eastern nurseryman, who in turn sold the information for $1.

At maturity, he became an itinerate Methodist preacher, traveling with a preacher companion and holding religious services at popular camp meetings in the summer and occasionally at churches during other times of the year. It was at one of these camp meetings that he met his future wife, Hannah Shelby.

Some time prior to his marriage he had established a successful salt merchandising business along the Ohio River. As he prospered, he also established a store at Manchester, Ohio. Hannah, now his wife, served as clerk. He decided to sell this store on credit to a trusted friend who failed in the business. Joseph therefore got nothing for it and suffered financial disaster.

This failure, together with the hard times following the War of 1812, caused him to lose everything he had, "Being poor is no disgrace if you have a stout heart and willingness to overcome it," the history records.

Hearing much about the fertile land further west, they decided to go to Fort Harrison on the Wabash River where Hannah had a brother and sister living. Anticipating a costly move, Hannah employed a young man and woman to help her dry peaches and apples from the Curtis orchards. Their labors through the summer and fall reaped a total of 250 bushels of dried fruit which they would use to establish their new business in Fort Harrison where the people were "fruit hungry." In addition to the fruit, they would sell cider, late-keeping apples and nursery stock.

Joseph contracted to cut a tract of virgin timber for $20 an acre in hopes of securing enough money to buy a keel boat and wood boat for the trip to Fort Harrison. As the ice broke abruptly on the river in February of 1818, they hurriedly departed for their new home. Three Curtis relatives went on the journey to help man the boat.

"They got through the dreaded Ohio fall without unloading their possessions as often happened," history recalls. Freight was often hauled past the falls overland. When they arrived at the mouth of the Wabash River two more men were hired because it would be more difficult to go against the current. The men were paid with dried fruit.

To avoid the current they always kept close to the bank of the river, navigating the boat by use of long oars and bush whacking-- that is, by pulling on the stout bushes or by pulling on a rope tied around trees-- a slow process.

They arrived at Fort Harrison on March 18, 1818. A double log cabin was secured and a tract of land was rented for setting out the nursery stock. They were able to obtain $3 per bushel for their dried fruits at that time because they were such a scarce luxury in this settlement. They stayed a year at Fort Harrison (near what is known now as Terre Haute, Ind.), living in the boat and later in a cabin while Joseph selected and secured his farm across the river in Illinois.

Curtis heard of the fertile land in Illinois and became acquainted with Col. Jonathan Mayo who was one

of the first to settle in 1817 in the area now known as Edgar County. At the invitation of Col. Mayo, Curtis came to Illinois in the summer of 1818 to investigate the land as the site of his home. He liked what he saw and bought 320 acres of government land at $1.25 per acre. The land was located about one-half mile east of the yet to be erected North Arm Church, close to the home of Col. Mayo. This land was located in a vicinity known as the North Arm of the Grand Prairie (or "Calico Corners"). The Curtis's built a log cabin and moved to this land the following February.

"This was fertile soil, containing much tall prairie grass, wild plums, grapes, crabapples, strawberries, black berries, paw paws, persimmons and mulberries. There were many wild animals, herds of deer, an occasional bear, foxes, many snakes, wild turkeys, other game birds, bees, and so many wolves that they were a menace."

"Indians still roamed this land, but did little harm except some stealing. One day an Indian came to the kitchen door wanting food from Hannah Curtis. When she returned with food he had his tomahawk out and threatened her. She picked up an axe and threatened him. He said 'Brave Squaw' and went away."

Some of the tough virgin soil was broken by oxen, and corn and buckwheat were planted. The meal from the latter brought $2 per bushel as it was scarce. In the nursery business, seeds for new varieties and the grafting of trees increased the stock considerably. As new families settled in the area, Joseph often set out a new orchard and increased his local trade. As time passed, he sent out wagons loaded with young trees for sale, pulled by four or six oxen over the swampy roads of that day. Payment was often made by note or the trade of deer or coon skins.

Although Joseph never became rich in his nursery venture, he sold trees all over the middle states, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri. Salesmen went out in the fall taking orders to be delivered in the spring in great wagons pulled by four or six oxen. Money being scarce, any saleable article was accepted in trade, including hides, deerskins, and coonskins.

The Curtis trees became available at river towns and Fort Harrison, and throughout the middle states. The fame of this nurseryman grew as customers from far distances sought the fruit trees because little fruit except the wild kind was available in this new country. Among the fruit trees were apples for all seasons, pears, cherries, plums, quince, peaches and grapes. The two kinds of apples which he introduced were "Hannah", named after his wife, and the "Milan." The Milans were marketed mostly in Fort Harrison as cider and were especially useful since they were able to be held through the winter by 1848.

The first Curtis log house burned in 1830 and a new one was built which had a large cellar. Here local men helped make cider and boiled it down while the women peeled and quartered the apples. Family cooking was done at open fireplaces, and pies and bread were baked in brick ovens.

In 1848 the ill health of Joseph Curtis caused him to turn the business over to his four sons, who operated it for many years.

The Founding of the North Arm Chapel

Joseph Curtis did not forget the religious side of his life, the summer he came to live at North Arm. He established a regular church meeting at Col. Mayo's home in 1819. The class consisted of seven persons: namely, Jonathan Mayo and wife, John Stratton and wife, Joseph Curtis and wife, and Sallie Whitley.

Curtis was also the first to proclaim the Word of God in Edgar County. He was a man with moderate preaching ability, but a consistent Christian and an industrious local preacher, enjoying the confidence of the community. It was at this meeting that the name of the church was decided upon and the decision was made to continue holding meetings in the homes of various members. Soon there were meetings held in the Curtis home where they continued for twenty-five years.

In 1823 the population was growing rapidly, and the Vermillion Circuit was established by the Methodist Conference to better provide preaching for the new residents. The home was recognized as a regular preaching place. This circuit included all the settlements above the Mount Carmel Circuit on the west side of the Wabash. Previous to the formation of this circuit, preachers sometimes came from Harrison and Honey Creek circuits in Indiana.

Curtis was always pleased to entertain circuit riding ministers, but if for any reason the preacher did not come, Joseph delivered the sermon. He was one of the local preachers who assisted at North Arm camp meetings in 1823, and his family attended those at Camp Chapel for many years.

In the Curtis home, Saturday was preparation day when bread, meat, and pies were prepared in anticipation of giving dinner to those coming from a distance. "Hannah Curtis was never wanting in hospitality to all who came to hear the gospel preached." Little cooking was done in this home on Sunday.

The congregation continued to meet in private homes for many years, but in the early 1840's, land was acquired for the erection of a permanent building. One history records that the land was donated by Joseph Curtis. The other claims that it was purchased for the sum of one dollar from Mr. and Mrs. Amos Lesley in June of 1845.

The first church has been described as a "plain red brick building, which stood at the north east corner of the crossroads east of the Curtis home. The church faced south, and there were two doors, one for the men and boys to enter, and one for the women and girls. Inside were large pillars which ran from floor to ceiling on either side. The windows were wide and high, three windows on each side, and the panes of glass were small. Little children sometime counted these while the minister preached. The church was known at North Arm Chapel from 1844-1876.

A short time before Joseph's death he was made a trustee of the newly established Methodist Academy where Mayo school now stands. Joseph died in 1852 at the age of 66. Hannah died in 1885 at the age of 95. Curtis was later honored by the University of Illinois for being the first Illinois nurseryman and leader in early Illinois history. His biography is in many libraries and encyclopedias.

By 1876, the old building in which the congregation had been meeting had begun to crumble away. It was constructed of brick baked in a local kiln and was not able to withstand the ravages of time and weather. The board of trustees met in the face of this crisis and after considerable discussion agreed to erect a frame building. The old church was sold to John Westbrook for $275, and new property was bought from Thomas N. Stay on June 7, 1876, for $75.

A report of the fourth quarterly conference meeting at the church in September of 1883 noted that at this point the church was "somewhat behind financially, but when Bros. Gay and Cattermole got fully to work, the people's faith in the power of Methodist preachers to beg was not lessened in the least, as nearly the entire amount was collected."

This frame church building was enlarged with the addition of a Sunday school room in 1907. The first Ladies' Aid Society was organized on Nov. 17, 1907.

The North Arm Church was declared abandoned at the 1954 Methodist annual conference, with authorization to sell. The next conference in 1955 reported that it had been sold to Hunter township for $600. The pulpit from the church was placed in the First Methodist Church of Paris for preservation.

In 1939 the North Arm Ladies Aid celebrated the 120th anniversary of the founding of the church with a reenactment of the significant events in the life of the church. The garden study club planted a group of flowering crab trees for the occasion.

Eight generations have descended from the union of Joseph and Hannah Curtis. Many of these descendents are still residents of Edgar County and active in the service of the Methodist Faith.

Sources of information: Wabash Valley Scrapbook; James Leaton's "History of the Illinois Conference"; Paris Library; Edgar County Court Records; Paris Beacon and Beacon-News; Journals of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church; Personal recollections; A history compiled by Rev. Richard Chrisman's writing and research on the church; Material from the Curtis family records; 1870 Edgar County history; Bailey Encyclopedia of Horticulture; Journal of Mrs. Curtis; Newspaper clippings.

NORTH ARM CHAPEL
Edgar County, IL
Timeline History

1786— Joseph Curtis was born in Burlington County, New York.

1812— Hard times were experienced by Joseph and his wife, Hannah, in Manchester, Ohio, after the War of 1812.

1818— The Curtis's brought dried fruit, cider and nursery stock to Ft. Harrison (the area later known as Vigo County, Ind.) on the Wabash River. There they met Col. Mayo who encouraged their move to Illinois.

1818— In the summer, Joseph Curtis bought 320 acres of government land at $1.25 per acre in the vicinity known as the North Arm of the Grand Prairie (or "Calico Corners").

1819— In February, the Curtis's moved to a newly built log cabin on their property. Joseph soon started the first church class.

1823— The Vermillion Circuit was formed, which included all settlements above the Mt. Carmel circuit on the west side of the Wabash River.

1830— The first log home of the Curtis's burned. A new log structure was erected in the same location.

Early 1840's— The land for the first church building was acquired. One history records that it was donated by Joseph Curtis. The other claims that it was purchased for $1 from Mr. and Mrs. Amos Lesley.

1843-76— The early brick church known as the North Arm Chapel served as the place of worship for its parishoners.

1848— Poor health forced retirement for Joseph. His four sons assumed the family business.

1852— Joseph died at age 66.

1876— The board of trustees decided to erect a new frame building to replace the crumbling brick structure. The old brick church was sold to John Westbrooke for $275. New property was purchased from Thomas N. Stay on June 7, 1876, for $75.

1885— Hannah, wife of Joseph Curtis, died at age 95.

1907— A Sunday School room was added to new frame church. The Ladies Aid Society was organized on Nov. 17.

1954— North Arm Chapel was declared abandoned by the 1954 Methodist Annual Conference, with authorization to sell.

1959— The Chapel was purchased for the sum of $600 by Hunter township, the intention being to maintain it as community property. The North Arm pulpit was placed in the First United Methodist Church of Paris for preservation.

IN 1907 THE CHAPEL was expanded by the addition of a Sunday school room (above). A permanent historical marker declaring the importance of the church to the Edgar County area will be erected at the site on Sunday during public ceremonies scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. A program commemorating the event is planned with the Rev. Richard Chrisman and John Beatty as guest speakers.

North Arm Methodist Churches (W.U.) Community Affairs File

Methodists, Historians Dedicate North Arm Marker Sunday

Paris Beacon-News 12-10-84

A congregation to warm the hearts of any gathering of ministers filled the former North Arm Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday afternoon for dedication ceremonies of an important historical marker.

The monument of grey Georgia granite, standing in front of the former church building east of Paris, notes that the original North Arm church established in 1819 was the first Methodist congregation in central Illinois.

A committee of Amelia Black, Pauline Haddix and Paul Stafford representing the North Arm Community Club and Philip Dickenson from the Edgar County Historical Society worked to establish the monument. Sunday's dedication is part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of Methodism.

Former church members of the congregation which disbanded in 1954, members of the present North Arm Community Club which maintains the church as a Hunter Township community center, and representatives of the Edgar County Historical Society packed the sanctuary of the former church for the afternoon program and dedication. Mattoon District Superintendent Wayne Hess brought official greetings from the Central Illinois Conference. John Beaty of Martinsville, member of the Central Illinois Conference committee for the Methodist Bicentennial, and Rev. Richard Chrisman, former Chrisman Methodist pastor and historian for the Central Illinois Conference, discussed the historical significance of the church and formally dedicated the marker.

A number of guests were introduced including retired Paris Methodist minister Rev. Lewis Hopper, Walter Kimble and other officials of the Historical Society, Paris Beacon-News publisher Ed Jenison who suggested the establishment of the marker in a 1939 editorial, and Mayo Hiddle and other Hunter Township officials.

Historical marker committee member Mrs. Pauline Haddix reviewed the ongoing work of the North Arm Ladies Aid, organized in 1907 which has continued on to the present day even after the closing of the church 30 years ago. Mrs. Haddix has served as treasurer of the Ladies Aid for 33 years.

Refreshments were served by members of the Ladies Aid following the program.

Other historical marker committee members were Philip Dickenson and Paul Stafford, who participated in the program, and Mrs. Amelia Black who was in charge of guest registration.

Rev. William Laughlin, present minister of the Paris First United Methodist Church, offered the opening invocation; Rev. Ned Hawbecker, Trinity United Methodist Church, led in the singing of an early Methodist hymn; and Rev. Dudley Pace, Vermilion United Methodist Church, closed with the benediction.

THE NORTH ARM Community Center, former North Arm Methodist Episcopal Church, was packed with former members and guests Sunday afternoon for dedication ceremonies noting the original North Arm church as the first Methodist congregation in central Illinois established in 1819 by one of the first Edgar County settlers, Joseph Curtis. Philip Dickenson of the dedication committee served as master of ceremonies for the afternoon speakers. (Beacon-News Photo)

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THIS MARKER standing in front of the North Arm Community Center was dedicated Sunday as part of the bicentennial celebration of the United Methodist Church. From left are Philip Dickenson of the historical marker committee, John Beaty of Martinsville from the Central Illinois Methodist Bicentennial Committee; local committee members Amelia Black and Pauline Haddix, Rev. Dudley Pace, Vermilion UMC; Rev. Richard Chrisman, former pastor of the Chrisman UMC; Paul Stafford of the historical marker committee; Rev. Bill Laughlin, Paris First UMC; Rev. Ned Hawbecker, Paris Trinity UMC; and Rev. Wayne Hess, Mattoon District Superintendent for the Central Illinois Conference, United Methodist Church. (Beacon-News Photo)

Churches WV

Churches (Vigo Co.)

Riley United Methodist will mark anniversary

T OCT 2 4 1978 Community Affairs File

The Riley United Methodist Church will mark the 127th anniversary of its congregation and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the present church building in a celebration scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 29.

The celebration is to begin at 9:30 a.m. in each Sunday School class and will continue at the 10:45 preaching service in which the United Methodist superintendent for the Terre Haute district of the South Indiana Conference, Alda Carter, will be the speaker.

Following at noon, a carry-in basket dinner is to be held in the fellowship hall. At 1:30 p.m. a service will commence featuring former pastor of the church, the Rev. Williams, as guest speaker.

The congregation of the Riley Church welcomes all to the complete celebration or any portion. A special invitation is extended to persons who have formerly worshiped at the church and have moved out of the Riley area.

The committee in charge of this event is Ernie Weddle, Dora Donham and Mary Marie Jackson.

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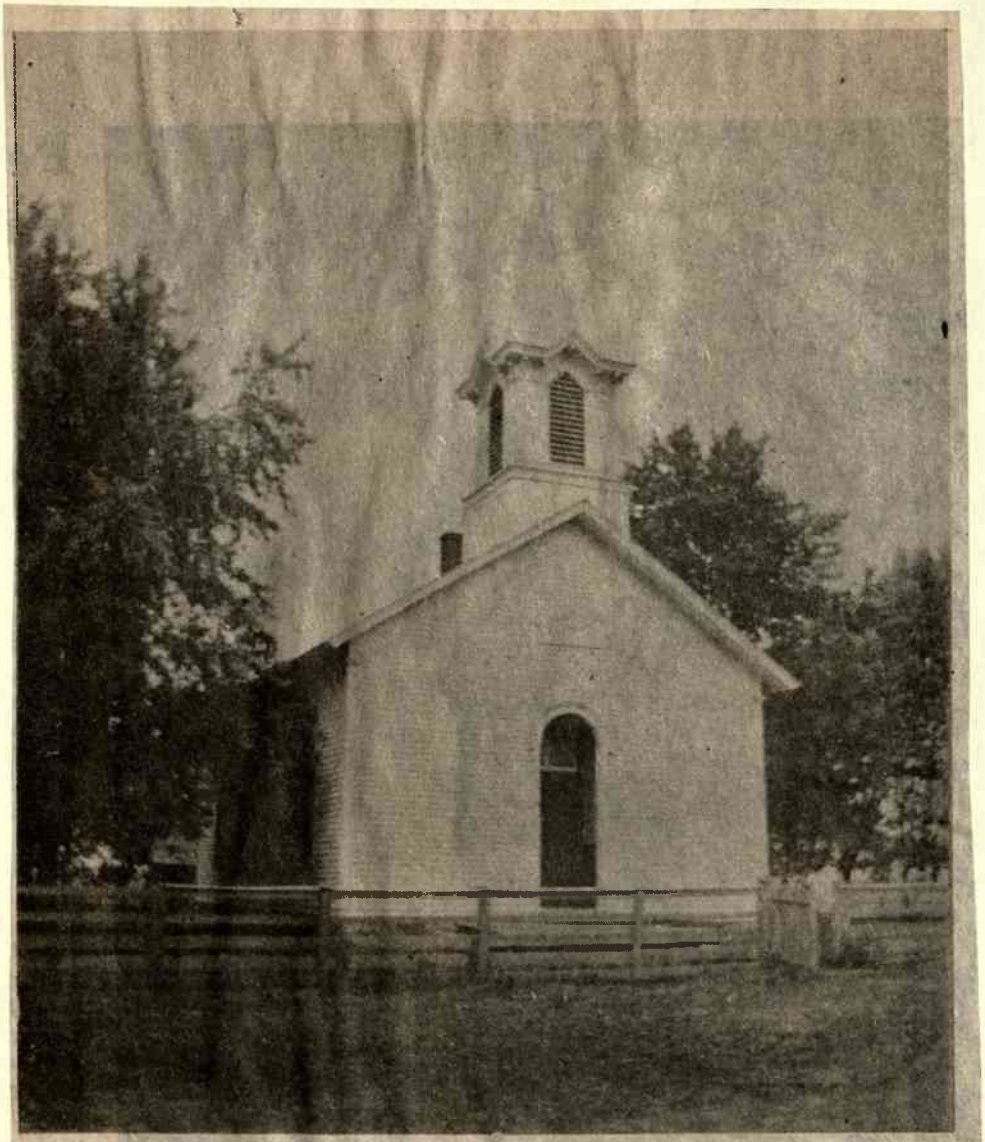

THE FORMER North Arm Methodist Episcopal Church is pictured above as it appeared when the existing structure was built in 1876. The original church, organized in 1819, is now recognized as the first to be established in Central Illinois. The facility served members of the area as a church until 1954, when it was sold to Hunter township to be maintained as a community building.

Churches (Vigo Co.)

Churches (Vigo Co.) VV
Rose Hill ME.

The Ladies Aid Society of Rose Hill M.E. Church

Community Affairs File

Ts SEP 14 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The Rose Hill Methodist Church was built in 1869 by a group of God-fearing neighbors in Otter Creek Township, Vigo County, Ind. The brick church was located on the Range Line Road, one and a quarter miles north of Otter Creek. Other descriptions of its location are one and a half miles northeast of Ellsworth (early name for North Terre Haute), and on the northeast corner of the intersection of the Rosedale Road one mile east of Old U.S. 41.

Harvey Evans was one of the original founders of the church. His daughter, Mrs. Ritter, was the grandmother of Mr. Lloyd Ruszler, who had kept the old records among his family papers and loaned them to me before presenting them to the Vigo County Historical Society.

The old minutes book of the Ladies Aid Society offered a glimpse into the lives and times of the Otter Creek Community before the turn of the century.

On Dec. 2, 1897, the society was organized by the Rev. J. W. Richards, pastor of the little church. Charter members were Mmes. J. Modesitt, James Crabb, James H. Evans (Mr. Ruszler's great-grandmother), E. Evans, R. L. Black, J. W. Richards (minister's wife), Ura Johnson, Edd Crabb and I. Ritter.

They chose as their motto "She Hath Done What She Could." There were two classes of members, active and inactive, whose sworn purpose was to "be of service to the church in any material way possible . . and to aid the needy who come within range of our influence."

The ladies met at 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoons every two weeks. They elected officers each six months. Dues were only ten cents a year and it took a two-thirds vote of the membership to vote the exclusion of a derelict member.

Mrs. Crabb was elected president, Mrs. Richards, vice president; Mrs. Evans, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Black, chaplain.

The big decision of the second meeting was what color to choose for the badges. After much discussion, the ladies finally selected pink, blue and white. In subsequent meetings, it was reported that the badges had been ordered, had arrived and were very attractive. In fact, it become so important to wear badges that members were fined for failure to do so. Which only goes to prove that Christian ladies with a sworn purpose to do good also had their little vanities.

A the third meeting, the ladies "took up quilting" as a ways and means project. They not only quilted for members and others in the community for a small charge, they also pieced and quilted quilts of their own making to sell to others. To relieve the monotony, they also "tacked" comforters, made aprons, sunbonnets and fancy sofa pillows.

In February, 1898, Mrs Lizzie Belt, Mrs. Mamie Brooks and Mrs. Amanda Brooks became members. A committee was named for visiting new neighbors in the community —sort of an early day welcome club!

At the next meeting, the ladies sewed ten pounds of carpet rags and decided to charge five cens each for piecing quilt blocks for Mrs. Mamie Brooks.

In March more new members were voted in—Mrs. Lena Dickerson, Mrs. Sarah Crabb, Miss Mary Belt, Mrs. Theo. Curtin, Mrs. Dan Burgan and Mrs. Grandma Brooks.

Most of the earlier meetings were held at Lizzie Belt's house. She was the president and she also served the most delicious noon dinners. Mrs. Belle Evans and Mrs. Maggie Gottschalk become members.

In May, the group met at Maggie Orth's home and 12 visittors were present. Mrs. Emma Brotherton become a member. Readers must remember that in 1898 there was no radio and no television soap operas to entertain women at home. They were not even connected by telephone. The women looked forward to these social times and learning what was going on in the community around them. It was undoubtedly better to join the group than wonder what gossip they were missing by staying home.

In June, 1898, Mrs. Florence Johnson was elected president. During the summer months, the ladies worked on

Continued On Page 7, Col. 4.

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Dorothy Clark

Ts SEP 14 1975

Continued From Page 4.

quilts, talked, ate excellent dinners, talked and drank lots of lemonade at their meetings. The club treasury climbed to $100.

In the fall they decided to have all-day meetings with a carry-in dinner served at noon. This way they were able to finish more quilting and have more time for socializing. As many as 26 members attended regularly. They were fined for not attending and for not wearing their badge. Quilts were made of calico and silk. In 1898 thread cost three to five cents a spool and silk cost 25 cents a yard.

In January, 1899, Mrs. Belt was elected president again. Rev. Harry Ing was the preacher, o be followed by Rev John Vermillion. Their wives were acive in he Ladies Aid Sociey.

During the year the women worked on items for their first November Fair, and cleared more than $70 during the one day event. Mrs. Johnson was elected president in 1900. The group sold carpet they had made for 25 cents a yard. They also bought a five-gallon ice creaem freezer and some folding tables for their own use.

At the August meeting at the home of Mrs. Clara Evans, it was so hot the ladies decided to visit instead of work. Suddenly a threshing machine (the old fashioned steam kind) was sighted coming up the lane toward the house, and, to quote from the secretary's minutes, "consternation instantly prevailed amongst the ladies, and some of them exhibited great agility in getting out of the house, and accurd to where their horses were hitched. The horses, however, behaved in the most admirable manner showing very little concern for the machine driving ino the yard without accident..."

In March, 1901, the ladies voted to furnish material for a garden fence for the parsonage. The pastor was to build the fence and also make window screens.

The group had a real adventure in July when they were invited to meet at the new home of Mrs. Zenana Curtis, 915 N. Meridian, in Brazil, Ind. They boarded the electric car at 4th and Main Sts., in Terre Haute, at 9 a.m. Rev. Bentley, of the Brazil M. E. Church, invited the ladies to tour the new church during the afternoon.

The book closed with a listing of those who had paid dues for 1903. It will be placed on file in the library of the Vigo County Historical Society.

Churches WV
Saulters Meth.

GROUND-BREAKING ceremonies are held for the new Saulters Methodist church. In the group are Rev. Gilbert L. Piker, superintendent of the Terre Haute district; Mrs. Dora Robbins, oldest member of Saulters; Earl Hay, Russell Follett, Sam Beecher Jr., Rev. J. C. Williams, church pastor; Reifers Blalark, trustee; W. D. Jones, chairman board of trustees, and Rev. Philip Stone, president of ministerial association.

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Community Affairs File

Congregation guides Saulters through 98 years

Churches W U
Saulters UM

T SEP 29 197 Churches, T. H.

Community Affairs File

By DONITA HADLEY
Tribune Staff Writer

Some say a church is not a building but people. Saulters United Methodist Church began with a small group of individuals who met nearly a century ago to organize the first church.

Saulters congregation is celebrating the church's 98th anniversary in October, the same month those early church founders met in 1879. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Odom, 1228 S. 13th St. The Rev. L. Brandon, a local minister, attended.

The Odom's daughter, Dora Odom Robins, was just a little girl at the time. According to Elizabeth Allen, current church member, Mrs. Robins could remember that organizational meeting. As years went by, Mrs. Robins (now deceased) kept church history alive through oral accounts.

The first church trustees included Albert Saulters, John Edwards and Albert Odom. Stewards were Alex Weeden, Maggie Taylor, Nancy Odom, Letha Edwards and Sarah Ridgley.

In 1883, the first church building was erected on the southwest corner of South 13½ Street and Franklin Avenue. The land was purchased for $50 from "Aunt" Sallie Williams. The Rev. Fred White served as pastor.

Elder E.W.S. Hammond suggested the church be named Saulters Chapel in honor of Albert Saulters, then the oldest member of the congregation. A trustee and first Sunday school teacher, Saulters died before the church was completed and funeral services were held in his home.

Twelve years later, the church building was moved across the street to the southeast corner of South 13½ and Franklin Avenue and the facility was remodeled. The Rev. C.H. Taylor was pastor.

In 1909, the church was replaced with a stone structure. The Rev. J.L. Franklin was pastor and the Rev. D.E. Skelton was presiding elder.

Disaster struck in 1951 when the church was completely destroyed by fire. For the next five years, the congregation met in the parsonage and a rented facility with their minister, the Rev. M.L. Bellinger.

The congregation was really hurt over the fire," commented Elizabeth Allen. "But maybe their faith might have been gotten stronger because later we built a new church."

With the help of the North West Indiana Conference (of which the church had become a member), the board of missions and the membership, the present Saulters Church was built in 1956. Resident bishop at the time was M.W. Clair and the Rev. I.D. Dorsey was district superintendent.

In April,1970, while the Rev. H.L. Morrical served as pastor, the church debt was liquidated. Later in that year, payments were completed on the church mortgage.

The present church includes some 30 members and is pastored by the Rev. Wayland E. Siders. The congregation has purchased new pews, pulpit furniture, carpet and a new piano.

Although the congregation is small, the members seem to have great faith. Church member Wilma Jones seems to reflect that spirit when she wrote "It is said that 'where a few are gathered in His name, there will He be also.' Surely we a can feel evidences of His presence and all who enter this structure can see it.

"This church has a place in God's plan and in the life of this community and through work and faith and with God's help we will continue to exert that influence."

Saulters congregation begins celebrating the 98th anniversary at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, at the church with the Rev. Raymond Floyd and his family conducting the service.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m. the Rev. E.D. Harper and choir are to be special guests of the church.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, the Rev. Noel Hord is to be guest speaker at the church. James Walton and Janet Williams are to provide special music.

The Rev. J.C. Williams, former church pastor, is to visit the church Sunday, Oct. 9.

CURRENT PASTOR — The Rev. Wayland E. Siders is the current pastor of Saulters United Methodist Church. Some 30 members attend the church which was built in 1956 some five years after a fire completely destroyed the original structure.

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Vigo County Public Library

(Mem)

IT TAKES PREPARATION — Planning Saulter's Church 98th anniversary takes much preparation on the part of the planning committee whose members include: (from left) Janice Williams, Helena Anderson, Elizabeth Allen, Winton Jones, Wilma Jones and Frances McCormick. Some of the committee's duties involve cleaning and decorating the church for the celebration which begins Sunday. The committee is also planning a dinner for former pastor the Rev. J.C. Williams, who is to visit the church Sunday, Oct. 9.

House of Photography

Churches WV
Saulters UM

Saulters Chapel will have guest on Sunday

Churches (T-H)

T OCT 19 1978

Joseph K. Assan of Winneba, Ghana, the first black country south of the Sahara to achieve independence, will be the guest speaker at the 99th anniversary of the Saulters United Methodist Church on Sunday Oct. 22 at 3:30 p.m.

The Saulters Chapel was founded in the Hyte Center community of Terre Haute in 1978 gaining its name from the first elected trustee, a former slave by the name of Saulters.

The Rev Wayland E. Siders announced that Assan has held teaching positions in the field of music as well as administrative responsibilities in the United Methodist school in Ghana. He is now a Graduate Assistant at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Being a product of the United Methodist Mission School of Ghana he will speak of his work and the development of the church in Ghana.

Elizabeth Allen, anniversary chairwoman, announced that Mary Brown will give the history of the Saulters Chapel with Allen Parks giving the community response. Others serving on a committee for the anniversary are Wilma Jones and Janice Williams.

The community is invited to share in this celebratinon.

Community Affairs File

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Churches (Ch) WV

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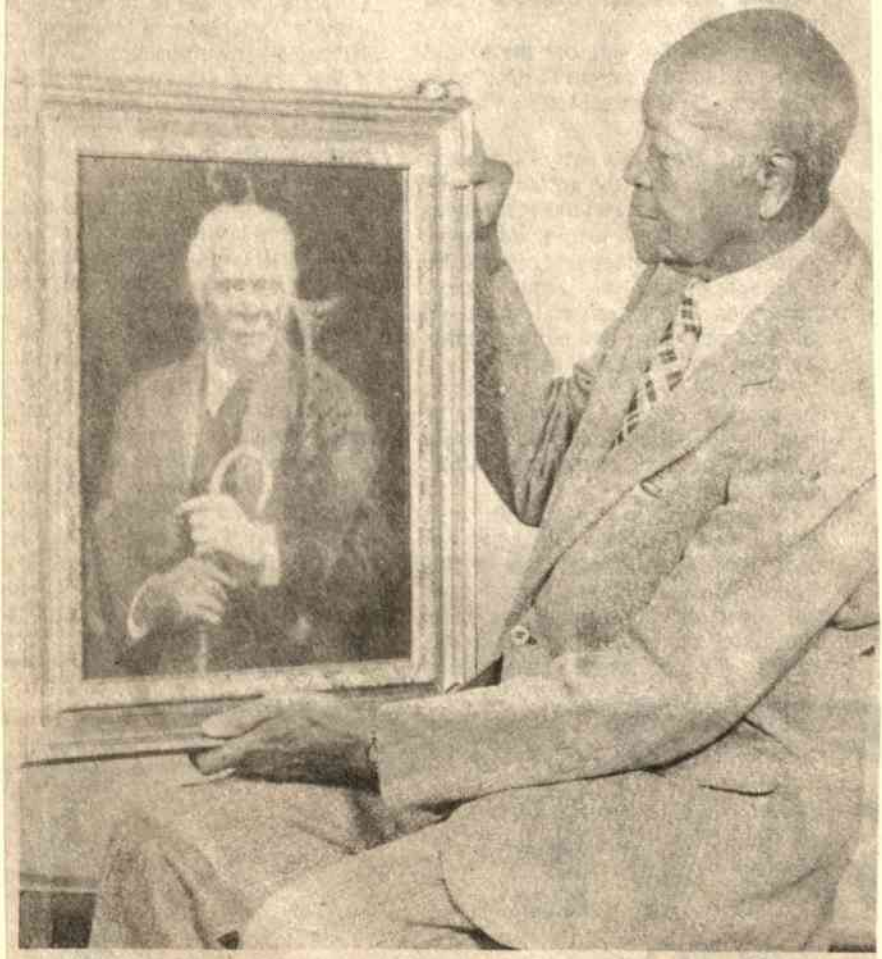

YES, YOU CAN — Winton D. Jones displays a portrait of Albert Saulters to be presented at 11 a.m. Sunday at Saulters United Methodist Church. Jones, chairman of the Do What You Can Club, will make the presentation as a part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary service. Saulters was the founder of the church. The Rev. Alda I. Carter, superintendent of the Terre Haute district will preach and participate in the dedicatory service. At 3:30 p.m., a former pastor of the congregation, the Rev. J. C. Williams, will speak. He will be accompanied by his antiphony choir.

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CHURCHES (W. V)
SEELYVILLE METH-

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Churches (Vigo Co.)

Community Affairs File

T.H. Trib-Star

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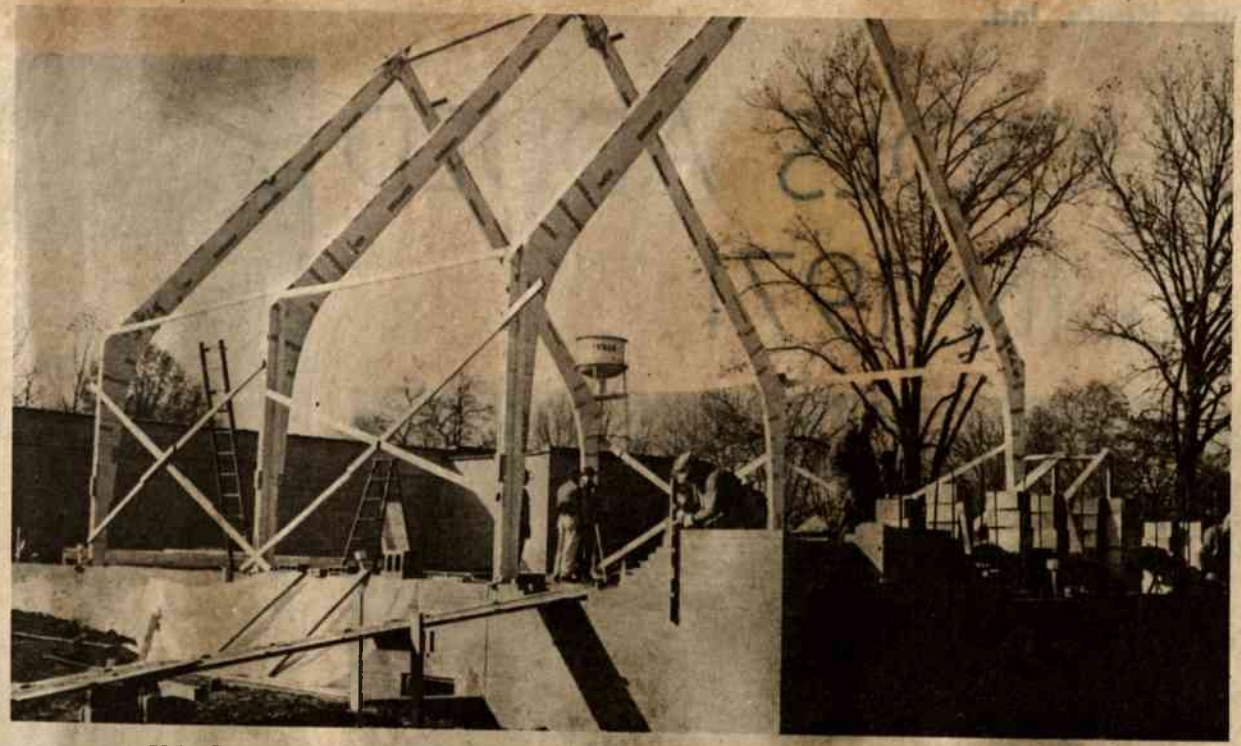


FRAMEWORK for an addition to the Seelyville United Methodist Church was erected shortly before the year ended. The church is located east of the traffic signal on Highway 40 in Seelyville.

Special Collections

Community Affairs File Churches (W.V)

Seelyville church celebrates heritage with special services

Methodist

T APR 15 1984

By Mary Jo Butts
Special to the Tribune-Star

The Seelyville United Methodist Church will celebrate Heritage Sunday April 29.

A birthday party at noon, featuring a carry-in dinner with dessert and drinks furnished, will follow morning worship and church school classes.

In conjunction with world-wide Methodism's bicentennial year, banners, posters and pictures depicting various people and events in the church history will be hung in the sanctuary and displayed throughout the building April 28 in preparation for the occasion.

The Rev. Joe Mitchell said although the local church is planning a year-long bicentennial observation, his sermons during the six weeks between Easter and Pentecost will focus on six people who made the United Methodist Church what it is today.

Heritage Sunday will begin the series recounting the roots of Methodist history interspersed with local history.

During the six Sundays, the Rev. Mitchell will discuss the lives of Susanna Wesley, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Phillip William Otterbein, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke, featuring one person each week.

"In this way, I hope to bring to life church history ... and what it says to us today," he said.

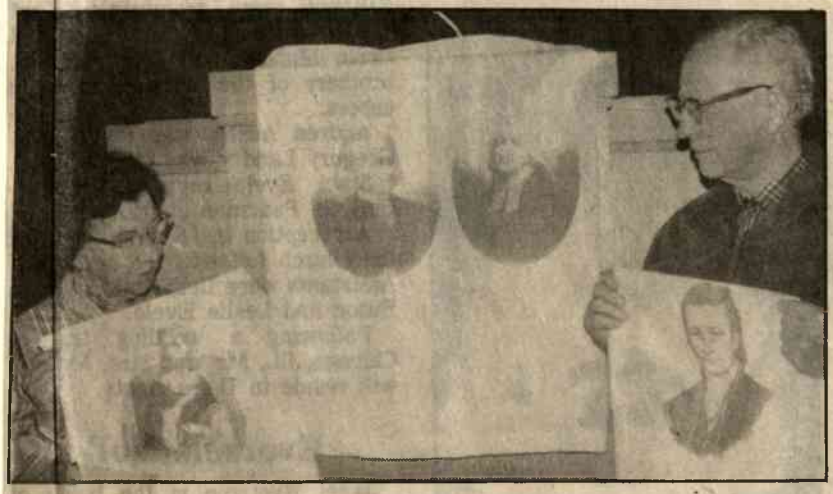
Congregational hymns and specials by the church choir will be 100 percent Wesleyan music, the Rev. Mitchell said, referring to the hundreds of hymns written by Charles Wesley, brother of Methodism founder, John.

Children in the fourth and fifth grade Sunday School classes have made a large banner using the official bicentennial logo. The banner, portraying a circuit rider and horse in red fabric surrounded by blackletters, will hang at the front of the sanctuary.

Other banners feature the American Methodist bicentennial heritage prints, silk screened onto white cotton cloth. Brenda Herb, Jessie Stewart and Carole Everman assisted with the banners.

The idea of using banners for the celebration was two-fold. "We wanted to involve as many of our church people as possible and the banners are a good educational tool," the Rev. Mitchell said.

Looking ahead to the next event on the local church's bicentennial agenda, the Rev. Mitchell said an outdoor service and bean dinner will be featured in September. Plans are being made for church members to wear clothing of the 1890s representing the beginning of the Seelyville church.



Tribune-Star/Mary Jo Butts

Focus on heritage

Anna Louise Coltharp and Wayne Coltharp, co-chairmen of the bicentennial celebration at the Seelyville United Methodist Church, display some of the banners that will decorate the church during heritage services.

Seelyville United Methodist
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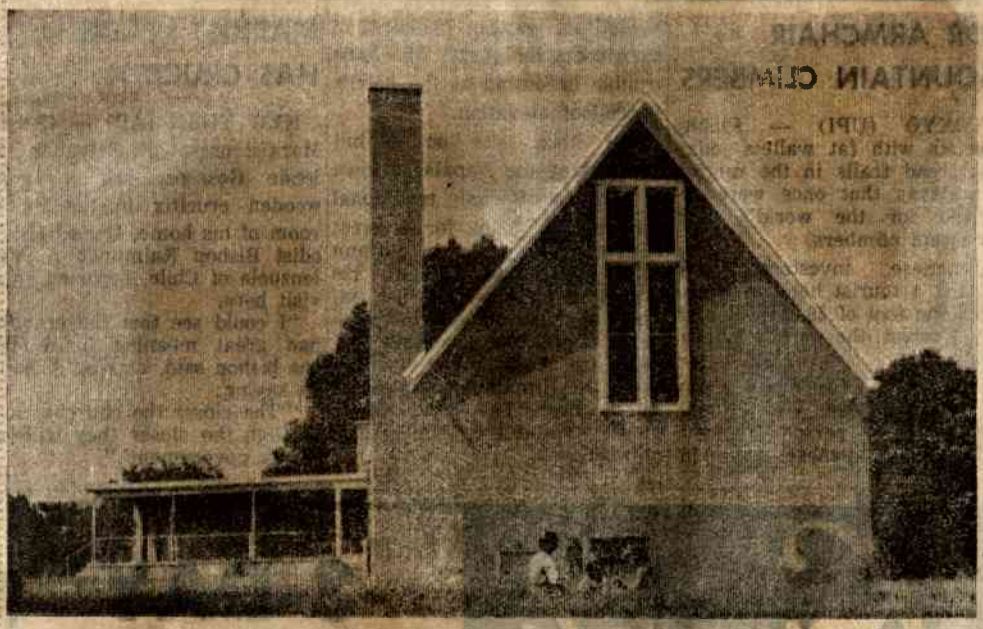
Seelyville United Methodist



YOUNGSTERS sit on the lawn of the Seelyville United Methodist Church in front of the new brick sanctuary and fellowship hall. Church members plan consecration ceremonies June 4 to declare the new addition, complete with fellowship rooms and kitchen facilities, ready for congregational use. The Seelyville church also conducts weekly nursery school classes for children in the area. House of Photography Photo.

Community Affairs File

Consecrate New Seelyville Church Sanctuary June 4

Ts MAY 28 1972

SEELYVILLE, Ind. (Special) — The Seelyville United Methodist Church has come a long way from its first meeting place atop a store building in the early 1800's. Sunday, June 4, the congregation will consecrate its new sanctuary and fellowship hall with special services.

Located in a small rural community, the church is built on a hill at the corner of 2nd and National Ave. It is believed to be the oldest Protestant church in Seelyville and the new addition marks the third church building in 100 years for its membership.

The first service in the new sanctuary will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 4. Later that same day Rev. Gene Crawford, superintendent of the Terre Haute District of Southern Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church will deliver a message as the church consecrates the building.

According to church history, Methodism in Seelyville began about 1880 when some DePauw University students gathered on Sunday near the old Pennsylvania Railroad tracks to hear some Sunday preaching.

Seelyville was a booming mining town in those days and the forlorn whail of an approaching locomotive must have interupted many a Sunday sermon. Attendance in the little church above the store grew and soon the meeting place moved to the school house south of the railroad tracks.

In 1890 congregation members pitched in to build the First Methodist Church of Seelyville across from their school house meeting place. As the community grew, so did the church.

In 1903 the membership again felt the need to build and Anna Dickerson donated the ground while members of the church contributed money and labor toward the house of worship. This time the church would be located south of Highway 40 opposite the Seelyville Town Hall. It took two years to complete and it was dedicated in 1905.

A two story education unit was completed in 1961 and was used for worship services. The building was dedicated in 1968.

The Seelyville congregation maintains a three-day-a-week nursery school for three and four-year-olds. The church sponsored nursery is governed by a church committee who employes a teacher.

When the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged four years ago, the church became known as the Seelyville United Methodist Church. Ground was broken by the 200 members of the church for the new sanctuary in August and this June the sanctuary will be consecrated.

Of buff brick exterior, the sanctuary has a high pitched roof and features a stained glass window at the altar end. Red oak wood paneling enhances the interior supporting the walls and cathedral ceiling. Gold tweed carpeting, tangerine pew cushions and kneeling pads provide a colorful accent to the modern day church.

Rev. Gene E. Gilbreath is the pastor of the church and has provided leadership in the final building plans of the church. Those who have served on various committees are: Laban Fisher, Mrs. Richard Tucker, Wayne Coltharp, Carl Altman, Roscoe Clingerman, Mr. and Mrs. John Eppert Jr., Mason Everman, George Exline, Edwin Manus, Howard Stewart, Miss Maude Sudbrink, Harry Zucher, W. A. Trinler, Herschel Dickerson, Harold Kindred, Mrs. Frank Reynolds, Don Everman, Harry Hoover, Charles Haltom, Jerry Parkins and John Walton.

All friends of the church are invited to join with the congregation in worship on June 4 to assist in consecrating the sanctuary.

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Community Affairs File

Involvement a big part of Smith Park Church

(WV) Churches (Methodist) Macksville Gazette 7/6/83

Methodist Hen. 1 Hist.

On a sunny day the wooden signboard sitting perpendicular to the brick framework gleams; absent slices of wood have left indentions which gives identity to the Smith Park Methodist Church.

The year was 1910, the season was summer and Robert Fyfe was interested in a church for the area northwest of West Terre Haute.

Rev. George Reedy, then pastor of the West Terre Haute Methodist Church, was inspired by Fyfe to begin tent meetings. The two men worked together, holding these meetings in Whitcomb Heights until inclement weather necessitated a move to a barn at Stop 5½ on the old Terre Haute-Paris Interurban line.

Many attended the meetings, enthusiasm grew and it was decided to build a permanent building, near the same location.

A lot of land and $100 was donated by Mrs. Robert Smith of the Deep Vein Coal Company toward building the new church. Thus the name of the present church, Smith Park, originated. Businessmen of West Terre Haute also contributed donations. The men of the community built the church under the direction of Rev. Robert Fyfe, the pastor, and Robert C. Carr, a local minister. It was later found that the church had been built across the property line of the original lot. Mrs. Smith then gave the adjoining lot to the church.

The first lights were kerosene lamps, followed by a gasoline pressure system. As electricity came along, it replaced the gasoline system. Every time the interurban would pass, the lights would dim so that the minister couldn't read his Bible until it had passed by.

Some of the early members were Cleve Harris, who played the pump organ; Clark Fields, Cid Murry, Daniel Worley, Wilber Lane, Frank Mills, Sr., George Armstrong and Leo Lane.

A remodeling program was undertaken in 1930. It consisted of putting a full basement under the church, installment of a furnace to replace the handfired coal stove, and classrooms divided off for the children.

In 1950 the present building being beyond repair, it was decided upon to build a new house of worship. During the Church Extension Crusade, Maple Avenue Methodist Church in Terre Haute raised approximately $3,800 toward this project, with approximately $600 in additional funds coming from other churches. In 1959 the District Missionary Society gave $1,000, the National Board of Missions $1,000 and the Conference Board of Missions also gave $1,000 toward the building project.

Many long and cold evenings followed for the men of the community, who again donated their time, talents and gifts to the building of a new edifice.

On September 27, 1959, following an opening worship service in the old church building, the congregation walked two blocks to the new church to conduct the first morning worship service.

An official Consecration Service was held on February 21, 1960, with Bishop Richard C. Raines, President Bishop of the Indiana Area, conducting the service, Rev. Gilbert L. Piker, District Superintendent of Terre Haute, in attendance, and the minister was Rev. James R. Dickey, who delivered the sermon. There have been 42 ministers who have occupied the pulpit in the church's history.

The brick building erected in 1960 is still used for worship every Sunday, standing on Ferguson Hill to the north after rounding the hill where the former Concannon School building is situated. Rev. Kenneth Burns is presently the minister of the church.

As one looks at the history already established by the pioneers of the church, the question comes to mind, who will continue this chronicle? It may have been evidenced a few months ago, as the youth of the church constructed and hung a new wooden signpost in front of the Smith Park Methodist Church.

*Information for the above article was taken from "History of the Smith Park Methodist Church" and the West Terre Haute News, by Lulu B. Palmer, **Terre Haute Tribune**, Sunday, February 21, 1960, provided to the Gazette by Rose Ann Ferran.

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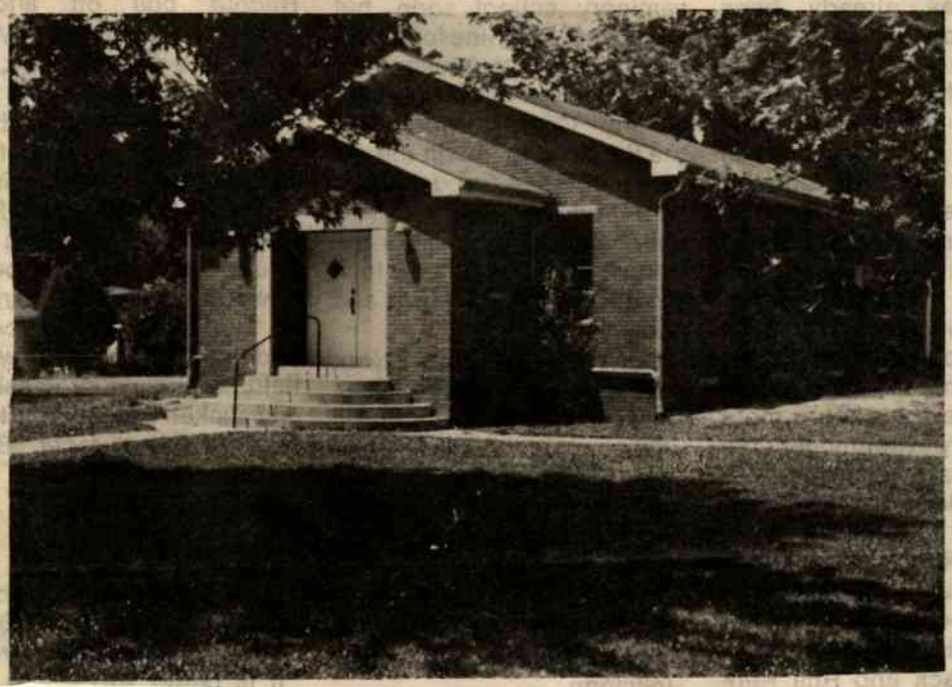
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH



CHURCHES W.V. METHODIST GEN

The

S DEC 23 1971

OLDEST CHURCH-GOER—Mrs. Viola LaFoon, seated, was honored by the congregation of Spruce Street AME Church Wednesday night on the occasion of her 75th anniversary as a member of the church. Mrs. LaFoon is 97 years old. Also honored at the special service were 30 and 50-year members. Shown around the guest of honor are, left to right, the Rev. D. R. Bailey Jr., pastor; Dr. W. A. Edwards, Mrs. Orita Rutledge, Mrs. Lydia Graham, James Graham, Mrs. Opal Golf and Mrs. Cleota Waldon. (Photo by Kadel)

Churches WV
Spruce St. AME

Community Affairs File

Fire Destroys Spruce Street AME Church

Churches (T.H.)

S AUG 1 1 1976

Fire destroyed the Spruce Street African Methodist Episcopal Church Monday night, causing an estimated $65,000 damage.

The two-alarm fire gutted the recently remodeled church despite futile efforts by city firefighters who fought the blaze for almost two hours before bringing it under control.

Fire department officials listed $50,000 damage to the structure and another $15,000 damage to its contents.

According to reports, the fire was apparently ignited when an air conditioning unit malfunctioned.

Firemen were called to the scene at 9:18 p.m. and remained at the scene for nearly four hours.

Pumpers 5, 8, and 11, along with Truck 5 and 8 made the call.

The Rev. Samuel O. Jones, pastor, could not be contacted Tuesday by The Star. Once plans are made to conduct worship services at a temporary site, The Star will announce them.

FIREMAN RESCUED—A fellow fireman and an interested citizen come to the aid of an unidentified Terre Haute firefighter who was overcome with smoke while fighting a two-alarm fire Monday night at Spruce Street A.M.E. Church, 1660 Spruce St. Local fire units were dispatched to the northside church about 9:18 p.m. Monday and fought the blaze for about three and one-half hours. Approximately $65,000 damage was caused by the fire, according to fire department officials. (Photo by Kadel)

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Community Affairs File

SPRUCE STREET CHURCH DESTROYED—Large stained-glass windows were melted by the enormous amount of heat generated by a Monday night fire which destroyed the Spruce Street A.M.E. Church, 1660 Spruce St. A Terre Haute fireman fights the intense heat and dense smoke while trying to extinguish the fire. About $50,000 damage was done to the structure and another $15,000 damage was done to its contents. (Photo by Kadel)

Churches WV
Meth. Ste.

Churches (AME) Community Affairs File

EXTENSIVE WORK was done in the Spruce Street AME Church recently, and Henry C. Brown, trustee; the Rev. Samuel Jones, pastor; and Leon Pitts, chairman of the board, were obviously and rightfully pleased and proud of the results.

TS JUN 19 1977

Terre Haute, Tribune-Star, June 19, 1977

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(W V) Temple U M

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T.H. Churches

T.H. Star 10/7/68

A JOYOUS OCCASION—Members of the Temple United Methodist Church engaged in a groundbreaking ceremony Sunday afternoon on its new site at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Seventh Street, south of Terre Haute. Shown, from left, are Warren Gardiner, chairman of trustees; Dr. Robert Brown, chairman of the building commitee; the Rev. Sam Phillips, Terre Haute district superintendent, who delivered the address; Mrs. Carrie Evans; Allyson Oster; David Jackson, and the Rev. Jasper Cox, pastor, who was in charge of the ceremonies. Construction of the new church is expected to start in the near future, and plans call for the building to be completed between eight and ten months. (Photo by Kadel)

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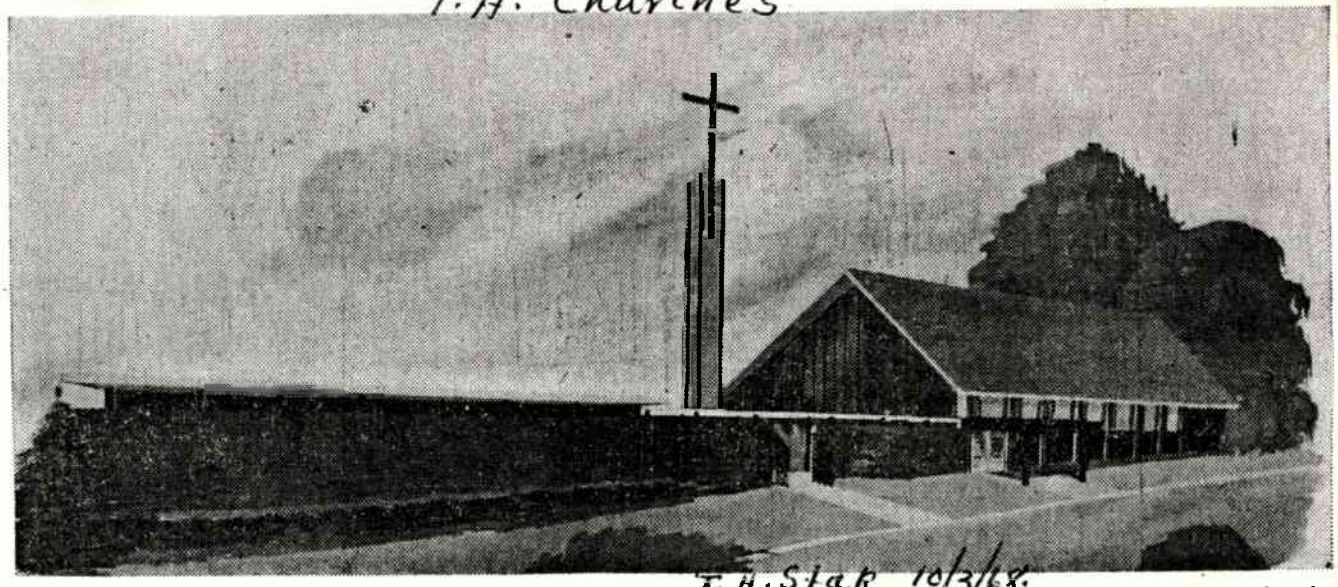
T. H. Churches



T. H. Star 10/3/68.

GROUND BREAKING SUNDAY—Temple United Methodist Church will break ground at 4 p.m. Sunday for its new church, the artist's conception of which is pictured. The site is on west side of U.S. 41 immediately south of the Seventh Street Road intersection. The Rev. Samuel Phillips, Terre Haute district superintendent, will give the address and turn the first shovel of dirt. Others participating in the ceremony will be Verne Fellows, chairman of the official board; Dr. Robert Brown, chairman of the building committee, and Warren Gardiner, chairman of trustees. The Rev. Jasper H. Cox, pastor, will preside at the ceremony. Boy Scout Troop sponsored by the church will post colors at the opening of the ceremony. Shelton Hannig is the contractor for the new building.

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1.

Churches (WV) Trinity ME

DEDICATED SUNDAY,

D H Gazette Wed 12/16

Impressive Services and Large Audiences at Trinity Church.

DR. COULTAS' SERMON.

A Wonderful Subscription--The Church Entirely Free From Debt.

Sunday was a great day at the new Trinity M. E. church. The bright sunshine of the forenoon seemed like a blessing upon the efforts of the earnest christian workers of this section of the city who have built a church and dedicated it free of debt at a time when churches that have been organized for years would have hesitated in endeavoring to raise over four thousand dollars. The auditorium and adjoining Epworth League room were crowded, the audience numbering about four hundred and fifty persons, Centenary and the other Methodist churches being well represented. From 9:30 to 10:30 a joyous praise service was held led by Mr. Jesse Levering; and at 10:30 the first regular church service was opened in the new auditorium.

I. T. COULTAS.

After a fervent prayer by Brother Asbury, Dr. T. I. Coultas delivered a wonderful sermon on "The Glory That is in Man." The address was one of power and inspiration and the audience seemed to rise in spirit with the thought of the speaker. The glory of man in his present existence and the beauty of his love, and moral attributes were treated as comparative enlightenments of the future glory. Life is indeed a vapor, but like a vapor it condenses into future and perpetual showers of glory. The following is an abstract of the sermon:

Roman 8 18:—"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."
II. Cor. 4: 17—"For our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

"Let us try to understand what is meant by 'the glory that shall be revealed in us,' and the exceeding and eternal weight of glory'. Then will we be prepared to appreciate the means by which this good untold is to be realized. Possibly the reading in the revised version may help us in this study. There the first verse reads "the glory that shall be revealed to usward;" and the second "working for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory." What is meant then by "this glory that shall be revealed to usward" this "eternal weight of glory" with which the sufferings of this life are not to be compared, and which is being worked out more and more exceedingly through earthly afflictions? We are disposed to dismiss such questions with the hasty conclusion that the reference is to heaven and we can know but little of the heavenly state. About all we can know is that the joys of the heavenly world are so great that amidst their felicity we will forget all about the grief of earth; and we ought not to be greatly affected by the sufferings of this life when we remember that there is such a glorious life before us where suffering cannot come. Undoubtedly the reference here is to our larger development in the celestial life, but possibly we over look the fact that the reference also is to our greater development in heavenly principles in this present life, and that the two are closely related.

MAN'S CAPABILITIES.

How greatly do we need to dignify and exalt the estimate we have of ourselves! How greatly do we need to see and know real selves more perfectly! It is posible in some respects we put much too high an estimate on ourselves it is certain in some others we put much too low. In comparing ourselves with our fellow men, no doubt we are often guilty of thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think but in comparison with our real capabilities our estimate falls far below our real greatness. And it is this low estimate we put upon ourselves that hinders so greatly the progress we might make. If man could really see himself and appreciate his powers, he would rapidly take on a largeness of purpose, fulness of endeavor and greatness of stature, far beyond anything that has ever yet appeared.

But what has earthly suffering to do with all of this? How does it stand connected with those glorious heights of development within the reach of our capabilities? Vastly more than can be told in the few minutes which remain for this service.

Whether they are the result of our sins or the sin of others, or ignorance or error. God is seeking to turn them to our good. Many a one has found the dark path leading out into the light, pain leading to pleasure, misery to happiness, penitential grief to holiness of life.

I believe if I will God has for me a higher mission, a larger glory than any I can know here. I believe that in me are capabilities to move along paths which God has provided, into unfoldings of glory growing in intensity and brightness, until as in the greatness of its rapture I cry out where is the end of all this," it will be only to hear the response "the end there is none." If the experiences of this life contribute to this end I accept them with gratitude. If suffering and affliction have their part I begin to understand that "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us," and "these light afflictions which endure but for a moment work out for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory."

Dr. D. M. Wood, presiding elder, then addressed the audience referring to the blessed meetings the church has enjoyed in the past and characterizing this as the supreme moment when the new edifice would be dedicated to Almighty God.

Mr. J. M. Sherman, on behalf of the official board then made a statement of the church's financial condition which contained the following figures:

Cost of lot	$ 600.
Required to finish the Sunday school room	3,337.48
Total	4,187.48
Cash and subscriptions received	2,150.25
Balance due	$2,037.23

A blackboard had been prepared with the sum required to free the church from debt represented by squares, each square crossed out removing $10 of the indebtedness. The subscriptions began with four subscriptions of $100 each and in about thirty minutes $1,710 of the amount had been subscribed.

At the evening service Dr. Coultas preached another eloquent sermon and in a short time subscriptions were taken to complete the paying of the indebtedness and about one hundred dollars to spare. This made the church free from debt, which is one of the essential requirements of a Methodist church before it can be dedicated under the rules of the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Wood, assisted by Dr. Coultas and the pastor, Rev. Wm. Pack, presided at the dedicatory services which were very im-

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Community Affairs File

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pressive and closed with the singing of the inspiring hymn, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

The Gazette presents today a cut of this beautiful and modern church. A complete description of the edifice was published in Saturday's Gazette.

We are the children of God. The poor the rich, the gatherer of sticks, the millionaire in a sense we are all the children of God. We are his offspring as our children are our offspring! We were made in his image as they are in our image. The attributes of God are in us, and our characteristics are in them. God is a spirit, we are spirits. God has thought, emotion, volition, perception, judgment, reason. In our measure we have all of these. With God these are infinite, with us they are finite, but the difference is only in degree.

The glory that shall be revealed in us, the eternal weight of glory being worked out if we will for us—there come along the line of the unfolding and developing of the very powers of God in us. Of course we cannot comprehend the fulness of that glory now, any more than we can fully conceive of the glory of the divine character.

Consider man in what he now is, and in what he has done. His movements of power stand forth as prophesies of his possibilities. The fullfillment will be as much greater than the prophesy as eternity is vaster than time, the infinite greater than the finite, but if we cannot look into the brightness of his glory we may at least see the principles from which it is to be evolved.

Consider something of the greatness of man's powers as revealed in the world of material achievement. Inspiration exclaims what hath God wrought? Looking out upon human handiwork with but little modification we may well exclaim "What hath man wrought?" We reflect upon the pyramids of Egypt upon whose heads the storms of forty centuries have fallen. We think of the seven wonders of the ancient and the countless wonders of the modern world.

Great is the glory of man's powers to achieve as seen in this life. But let God lay his moulding hand upon them, let them have the development of ages, and who ca ntell of the exceeding and eternal weight of glory that has come to them.

But what shall we say of the glory on man's intelectual powers? His intellectual capabilities and material achievements are closely related. At many points they become one. That which is achieved in a material way is first achieved in an intellectual way. It exists in the world of thought before it exists in the world of material form. But what shall we say of those great intellectual forces which lie back of the world of human achievement? Consider what powers have been manifested in the direction of imagination.

But consider man's heart life, his life of feeling and sympathy, emotion and affection. Surely we find here the prophesy of a glory untold. What a beautiful principle is that of friendship! How greatly we should appreciate it! How highly we should exalt it! How tenderly we should cultivate it! In but few things do we see more clearly the beneficience of the great Father than in endowing us with those capacities and putting us into those conditions where we may comprehend and appreciate the meaning of the word friend.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

Take these human affections manifested in friendship, domestic attachment, love for home and country, humanity and God, purge out of it everything that is impure, strengthen it in every thing that is worthy and holy, put it in exercise along those paths and in those spheres prepared for it by infinite wisdom, give it countless ages of development, and looking upon it in thought and imagination as it will appear aeons hence, we begin to grasp something of the meaning of that glory which will be revealed in us.

(D) But consider man in his powers of virtue, honesty, integrity, purity, developed amidst tendencies and influences that debase. There are good men in this world. Some of them are in obscurity and retirement, not asking to be recognized, not standing on the corner of the street, and blowing their trumpet, but satisfied to be "little and unknown. Loved and prized of God alone."

These virtuous powers in us are to be translated. They do not perish but endure unto an endless development. James said "What is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." "Yes, and he might have said "What is life? It is a vapor, that vanisheth." Life here is expending and passing away but there it is gathering for a larger growth. This corruptible puts on incorruption this mortal puts on immortality. Indeed this process is going on now. But the essential life endures and passes up into the larger sphere.

The going forth of the great divine powers in us to live again, grow again and become like God. They are to go like Moses leaving on the mountain top the earthly body to take on a celestial form; like Elijah casting aside the mantle of their earthly limitations because it is no longer large enough to cover them; like Jesus throwing aside the gates of death, that they may enter upon a life enduring and endless in its growth.

Churches (WV)
Trinity M.E.

TRINITY DEDICATION.

A Modern Church Edifice to Be Dedicated Sunday Forenoon.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

The New Church Edifice and its Equipment--Tomorrow's Services.

Sunday forenoon at 10:30 o'clock will be observed the dedication of what is without doubt the most modern church edifice of its size in Terre Haute. A remarkable fact is that the congregation which is to occupy it has been in existence as a church only about four months. The church to which reference is made is Trinity M. E. church, located at the southeast corner of Fourteenth street and Third avenue.

In April of 1892 under the pastorship of Dr. T. I. Coultas several prayer bands were formed in various parts of the city to be under the care of an organization of young men in Centenary church, known as the Young Men's Christian Union, of Centenary, and of which Mr. W. S. Roney was president. The congregation of what is now Montrose church was organized as one section and in the northeast portion of the city was another prayer band which met for several years at the homes of the members, the meetings being held on Tuesday night each week. For the past two years the meetings have been under the direction of Mr. Jesse Levering. Last year a Sunday school known as the Levering Mission was organized and a room, twenty by thirty feet in size, over Galloway's meat market on north Thirteenth street, was used as a session room with one hundred chairs for seating accommodation. Last Easter a special program was arranged and into this one room crowded 128 people. This indication of the desire for and need of a church was followed by active work.

In October of last year the congregation had been organized as a class from Centenary and class meetings were held in the Sunday school room Sunday mornings, but not until in June of the present year was a church organization effected. Previous to this later organization a lot had been purchased and on this lot a tent was erected and an enthusiatic meeting held on Sunday, May 24th. At this tent meeting there were material evidences of the desire of the community to build a church, large subscriptions toward the building fund being made.

Early in June the work of preparing the ground for the building was begun and on the 12th of July the corner stone was laid. The electric lighting and the work on the furnace was completed today and everything is in readiness for the dedication.

The construction of the edifice has been under the personal supervision of Mr. E. L. Taylor and Mr. J. M. Sherman, of the Clift & Williams Company, who was the architect of the building. Their labors speak words of praise for Trinity has the record of being one of the most improved of the smaller churches of the city.

The total cost of the lot, building and furnishing is betweet $3,500 and $4,000. The edifice is 36 by 68 feet and the auditorium annex will seat 425 persons. The basement is to be used in the future for the Sunday school and as the church parlors, but for several weeks all of the services of the church have been held here. There are large entrances from the northwest into the hall from which a beautiful stairway leads to the auditorium. The pulpit is located in the southeast corner of the audience room. The floor is gradually raised in each direction from the rostrum so that every seat is in a desirable location. The seating arrangement is with chairs of comfortable pattern, arranged in semi-circles and prevented by a simple device from being moved out of place on the floor. Adjoining the auditorium on the south and separated from it by folding doors is the Epworth League room. When it is desired to enlarge the main auditorium the intervening doors slide up into the upper partition. There is not only this convenience but also new innovation in movable partitions that is not known to be in use in a single other church. This new improvement is a removable post invented by Mr. J. M. Sherman. A spring lock at the top of the post is unfastened the post is lifted outwards and up and several pretty moldings projecting a few inches from the ceiling are all that are left where were formerly walls and posts.

The Clift & Williams Company supplied the plans for the new church and finished the interior throughout. The wood work is of Cypress in natural wood finish; the walls are beautifully frescoed in shades of blue and terra cotta; and the rooms are bountifully lighted by large and numerous windows of frosted glass. In the rear of the rostrum is a beautiful window of stained glass. The entire building has been admirably equipped with electric lights by Wells & Bebee, the electrical contractors. There are in all 103 electric lights of which 64 are in the main auditorium, 12 in the lecture room, 24 in the basement and the remaining lamps are in the halls. The painting of the exterior is the work of Zin & Garver. An excellent furnace with improved air duct heats the entire building. This furnace is the gift of a member of the official board of Centenary church.

CHURCH OFFICIALS.

The pastor of the church is an excellent young minister, Rev. William Pack, who came to this country five years ago from England, his home there being sixty miles from London. Immediately upon his arrival he entered DePauw University from which he graduated last June. For the past year he has been stationed at Carbon, Ind., and early in the summer he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy B. Girton, an estimable young lady of Carbon. Immediately after their marriage Rev. and Mrs. Pack left for a three months' visit in England and on their return he was appointed by the Northwest Indiana conference as the first pastor of Trinity M. E. church. The congregation has obtained a delightful and convenient parsonage at 1407 Fourth avenue. The church is fortunate in receiving a pastor of progressive ideas who will labor hard to make the church a helpful factor in that portion of the city.

The officers of the church are as follows: Trustees--Jesse Levering, chairman; J. A. Asbury, E. L. Taylor, Freemont Schofield and J. H. Shesman. Stewards--W. A. Parton, chairman, J. N. Taggert, E. B. Norton, W. T. Budd, J. W. Mattox, Charles Torrence and J. M. Sherman. J. A. Asbury is the chorister and Miss Hessimer, organist. The membership roll of the church now numbers about one hundred names.

Jesse Levering is the superintendent of a progressive Sunday school that meets at 2:30 Sunday afternoon in the basement of the church. It has an enrollment of 189 members and a welcome is extended to all others who desire to become members.

TOMORROW'S SERVICES.

The special services begin tonight at 7:30 o'clock when an official board meeting will be held, presided over by Dr. D. N. Wood, presiding elder of the Greencastle District. Sunday, morning at 9:30 o'clock a praise service and love feast will be held under the leadership of Brother Levering. At 10:30 Dr. Coultas will deliver the dedicatory sermon and assist the elder in dedicating the new edifice. The Sunday school will hold its regular session at 2:30 in the afternoon. At 4 o'clock Rev. Pack will conduct a baptismal service. The Epworth League will hold its regular devotional service Sunday evening at 6:45 led by Mrs. Galloway. Dr. Coultas will preach again at 7:30 in the evening.

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Community Affairs File

T. H. Gazette
12/9/96

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

An attractive new church edifice built during the past season is the one erected by the congregation of Trinity M. E. church at the corner of Fourteenth street and Third avenue.

Early in June the work of preparing the ground for the building was begun and on the 12th of July the corner stone was laid. The construction of the edifice was under the personal supervision of Mr. E. L. Taylor and Mr. J. M. Sherman, of the Clift & Williams Company, who was the architect of the building. Their labors speak words of praise for Trinity has the record of being one of the most improved of the smaller churches of the city.

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TH Gazette
12-9-96

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH

Special Collections

Churches (WV)
Trinity U.M.

Church Expands. 1-6-57

The first unit of the new Trinity M. E. Community Church opened. This unit comprises the Sunday School auditorium, the gymnasium, shower room, heating plant, kitchen and classrooms. This is the first unit of the new church now being erected on the corner of Nineteenth street and Fourth avenue. Dr. Albert Hughes, president of Evansville College at Evansville, Ind., was the featured speaker for the ceremonies. Commencing at 9:30 a. m. with the Sunday School, services were held throughout the day. Dr. Hughes preached at 10:45 o'clock and later that night at 7:30 o'clock. During the afternoon a fellowship service was held.

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Community Affairs File

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Local Church Plans Burning Of Mortgage

Members and former members of the Trinity Methodist Church, 1209 North Nineteenth street, are planning to attend the fifty-eighth anniversary of the church. The occasion will be marked by a formal mortgage burning ceremony, to be followed by special services throughout Sunday, November 29.

All-day services will be held, starting with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., and morning worship service at 10:45 o'clock.

A basket dinner will be served at noon with afternoon activities beginning at 2:30. Many out-of-town guests are expected. There is one remaining charter member living, Mrs. Nell Cline Gibbons.

Standing as a memorial of the past, the beautiful hand-carved pulpit stand with its flying eagle made by A. D. Thompson from some of the native wood of the old Asbury Chapel, welcomes the people of the community to come and worship.

The first Christian sermon preached in the locality of Terre Haute was by a Methodist preacher named Jonathan Stamper, chaplain of a Kentucky infantry regiment, in the year 1812, according to church officials. Terre Haute was founded Oct. 30, 1816; during this same year a Methodist circuit rider, Rev. James McCord, rode into the settlement and organized the Terre Haute circuit. From this stemmed the growth of Methodism. The first Methodist church was located at Fourth and Poplar streets, a log structure until 1841 when a brick building was built, which was known as Asbury chapel. Services were held there until 1894 when Rev. William H. Hickman became minister and the congregation moved into the present location of Methodist Temple, Seventh and Poplar streets, and the name Asbury Chapel was changed to the First Church.

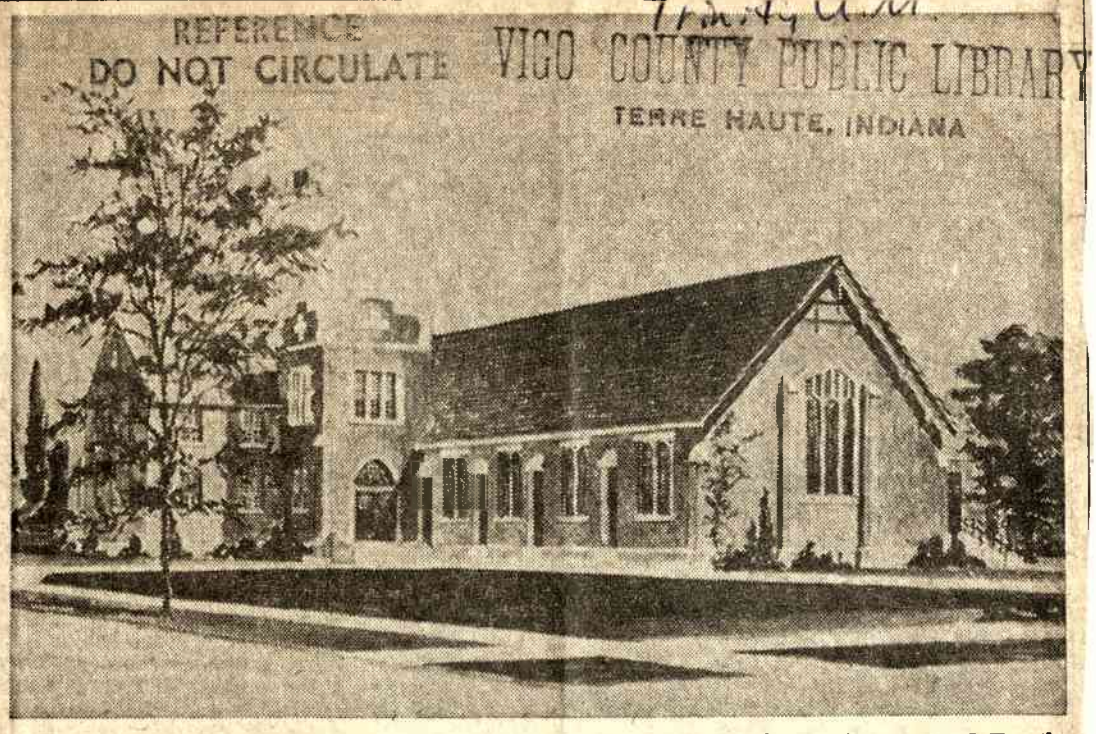
The town was growing and there was need of a second church, which was located on Locust street, and which through the years, due to marked changes in the town, found its location unsuitable for a church. A new church was located where Centenary Church now stands. From this church, cottage prayer meetings were held in the remote sections of the town, one of which was held at the home of J. Merril Sherman and lead by Mr. B. E. Lockwood on the corner of Fifteenth and Third avenue. In the summer of 1894 a class was formed which met at the home of John Godwin on Second avenue every Sunday morning with Jesse Levering as class leader. In October of that year a building at 1111 North Thirteenth street was rented to accomodate the class. The Levering Mission was then organized and banned together in church relationship with thirty-five members on Nov. 29, 1895. During the winter of 1896 a fund was solicited for ground on which to build a church and in April, 1896, permission was given by conference to become a seperate church and the name Trinity was given. The location was at Fourteenth and Third avenue.

The church continued to grow until the year 1924 under the leadership of Dr. W. H. Hickman. A new location was purchased and a movement was started to make this location the new church home. In the fall of 1925 Rev. W. N. Whear was appointed to succeed Dr. Hickman to continue with the work. In 1926 the old church building was sold to the congregation of the Church of God.

A tabernacle was built on the present site to be used until the new church was erected. The tabernacle was dedicated in May, 1925, and a program outlined for the new church was made. October 11, 1926, the ground for the new church was broken by Mary Ellen Cline a charter member of Trinity Church. Through hard work and prayers the new church gymnasium was dedicated on January 9, 1927, where services were held until June, 1927, when the dedication of the present structure at Nineteenth and Fourth avenues was held.

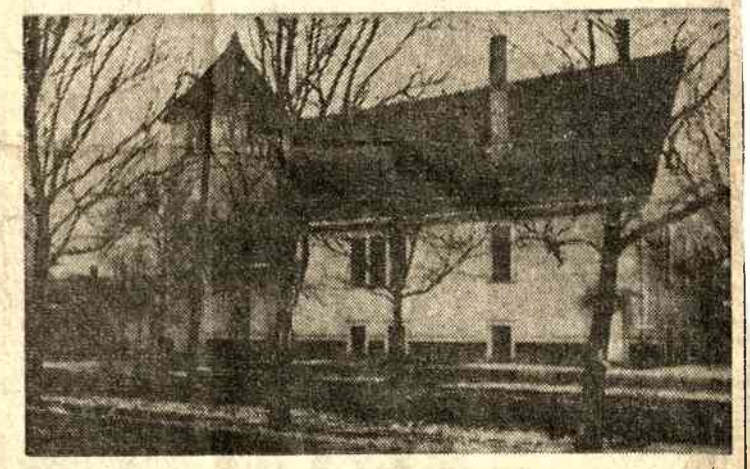
The years since have been filled with problems of financing of the church. In 1945 the first building mortgage was $4,900 and under the leadership of Rev. William Evers this mortgage was liquidated and the contributors were known as the "49ers." The following year the church celebrated its half century mark with an all-day program and services under the Rev. Rufus Simons.

In 1951 a program was under way with the leadership of Rev. Edward Boase to liquidate the second mortgage on the church which was held by the board of missions. Dr. George P. Burdon assumed the duties of completing this financial program when he came to us this past June and now on Nov. 29, the church will celebrate its 58th anniversary and also burn the mortgage. All-day services will be held beginning with Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. and morning worship at 10:45



FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY—The Trinity Methodist Church, Nineteenth street and Fourth avenue, will observe its 58th anniversary with a formal mortgage-burning ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 29.

DR. GEORGE P. BURDON, Pastor.



FORMER CHURCH BUILDING, located at Fourteenth street and Third avenue.

Community Affairs File

3 Methodist Churches Here Effect Merger

The Methodist congregations of the Trinity, Liberty Avenue and North Terre Haute Park Avenue Churches have completed a merger of their parishes.

Officials are planning extensive remodeling and modernization of the Trinity Church property at Nineteenth and Fourth avenue, which the new congregation will occupy under the Trinity name.

Last Sunday, Bishop Richard C. Raines of the Indiana Methodist Area in the Annual Conference at Purdue University, approved the appointment of the Rev. Edward S. Vaught as minister of the combined church. It is believed to be the first triple congregation union in the more-than-100-year-old history of the Northwest Indiana Conference.

The Rev. Vaught's appointment was read to the conference by the Rev. Gilbert L. Piker of Woodridge, superintendent of the Terre Haute District, under whose direction the merger was accomplished. The Rev. Mr. Vaught has been serving the charge of both Trinity and Park Avenue congregations for several months.

Large Congregation.

In taking charge of his new appointment this week, the Rev. Mr. Vaught noted with particular satisfaction the co-operative manner in which the congregations pursued the new congregation idea in an effort to present a more effective spiritual service. Their combined membership totals 565 persons with an area potential of more than 1,000 family members.

He disclosed that the expansion plans are "not on the drawing boards yet" and probably will not be under construction before some time next spring. However, he said the congregations feel the present Trinity building space will be adequate with a number of wall changes and other remodeling features.

Estimated cost of presently tentative construction was said to be in the neighborhood of $20,000 to the sanctuary, its 300 seating capacity; 12 classrooms and gymnasium with stage and kitchen facilities.

Plan First Service.

The first service of the new congregation will be held Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock with the Rev. Mr. Piker officially directing its recognition on the local church scene.

The Rev. Mr. Vaught and members of the church lay leadership will accept the official charge to direct its spiritual program. Church School classes will be held from 10 to 10:30 and, at 10:45 the Rev. Mr. Vaught will deliver his first sermon to the new congregation.

His message will dwell upon the theme "United by His Grace" with the new church choir presenting appropriately arranged music. It will be directed by Franz Tomlinson with Mrs. Clifford Eley at the organ.

The official board of trustees of the new church is composed of Darwin Bucy, lay leader; Lawrence Ogborn, building fund treasurer; William Carlson, Harry Cash, Jack Groby, Robert Heithecker, Robert Hill, Kenneth Karshner and Willard Potts.

On the board of stewards are: H. D. Bucy, William Cleghorn, Quentin Davis, Ralph Davis, Gifford German, Jack Gorby, Roy Hall, George Kiser, Charles Kline, Fleetwood Northrop, Sylvester Ozier, Edward Paitson and Ralph Smith.

Also, the Misses Barbara Brunner, Barbara Dailey, Mary O'Brien, Dorothy Titus and Mary Short and Mmes. William Baker, Roxie Ballard, Elizabeth Bucy, Gila Bucy, Arthur Chester, Ralph Davis, William Eldred, Ronald Hanks, E. Hueser, J. M. Hughes, Herman Moeller, Ernest Olbrich, William Reyher, Dewey Roberts, Lena Rood, Harrel Scott, Russell Smith, Thelma Smith, Susie Stiedel, Franz Tomlinson and James Trimble.

Other newly elected officials are: Mrs. Edward Paitson, Annual Conference delegate, and Mrs. Lawrence Ogborn, reserve delegate; Mrs. Franz Tomlinson, district steward and also recording steward; Miss Esther Arnold, district Women's Society of Christian Service representative; Mrs. James Hughes, hospital and homes steward; Wiliam Lampton, operating fund treasurer; Mark Ballard, financial secretary, with Miss Barbara Brunner, assistant, and Mrs. Ernest Olbrich, WSCS president.

Also, John Dahlen, Scouting institutional representative; Mrs. Edward Paitson and Mrs. Quinton Davis, representatives to the Area Council of Churches; Robert Hill, Church School superintendent, with Mrs. William Reyher, assistant superintendent, and Mrs. Fleetwood Northrup, as superintendent of childrens divisions, Mrs. William Baker, youth division superintendent, and Mrs. Dale Waid, adult division superintendent.

The vacated Park Avenue and Liberty Avenut church buildings will eventually be sold, according to the pastor, but, for the present, will be used as depots or loading stations for newly acquired bus service which, wherever needed, will carry persons of the two areas to services at the new church site.

Churches (WV) Trinity U.M. 19th and 4th Avenue

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Community Affairs File

Churches (Meth.) W
Trinity Meth.

Church Program Sunday to Mark 60th Anniversary

11-26-55

Sixtieth anniversary of the founding of Trinity Methodist Church—Nov. 29, 1895—will be observed Sunday with services throughout the day.

A co-operative dinner will be served at noon, a special service is scheduled at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and a supper at 5:30 o'clock, in addition to the regular services.

Two members of the faculty of the Methodist Erie School at Olive Hill, Ky., will be on the program during the day, Miss Mildred Burdon, instructor in music, and Ralph Forney, instructor in science.

+ + +

"THE LIGHT of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ" will be the topic of the Rev. Dr. G. P. Burdon, pastor, at the morning service at 10:35 o'clock. Miss Burdon will provide special music for this service, which follows the regular Sunday School. Registration for the anniversary will open at 9:30 o'clock.

Following the co-operative dinner served at noon in the gymnasium, Ed. Paitson will preside at the afternoon servie. Letters and messages from friends and former pastors will be read at this time.

Ralph Forney will talk on the Methodist Erie School during the afternoon and show slides of the work of the school. Miss Burdon and Mrs. Forney will present special musical selections and special organ melodies will be played by Mrs. Lena Moeller.

+ + +

THE EVENING service will include a variety of musical selections by the Methodist Men's Club Chorus directed by Mrs. Nellie Henderson, organ and piano numbers in solos and duets by Mrs. Gale Clark and Miss Burdon and numbers by Miss Betty Kent, vibra harypist.

Paul Titus, secretary of the Methodist Men's Club and Sunday School superintendent, will speak on "Winning Men to Christ and the Church." Prayers and the benediction will be given by visiting ministers.

A Sunday School class which had been meeting in the home of John Godwin on Second Avenue banned together Nov. 29, 1895, and rented a building at 1111 North Thirteenth Street to organize the first church relationship of the present church. It was known as the Levering Mission.

+ + +

PERMISSION was granted by the conference for the mission to become a separate church the following April and the name Trinity was given to the church. The first building was constructed at Fourteenth Street and Third Avenue, which in 1926 was sold to the Church of God.

The present structure at Nineteenth Street and Fourth Avenue was dedicated in June, 1927. Twenty-six years later, in November, 1953, the church celebrated its fifty-eighth anniversary with a mortgage burning ceremony.

Last October, the church sold its parsonage, located at the rear of the Church of God to that church. Plans now are under way to build a new parsonage adjoining the present church.

During the 60 years the church has served the community, there have been 25 pastors assigned to it.

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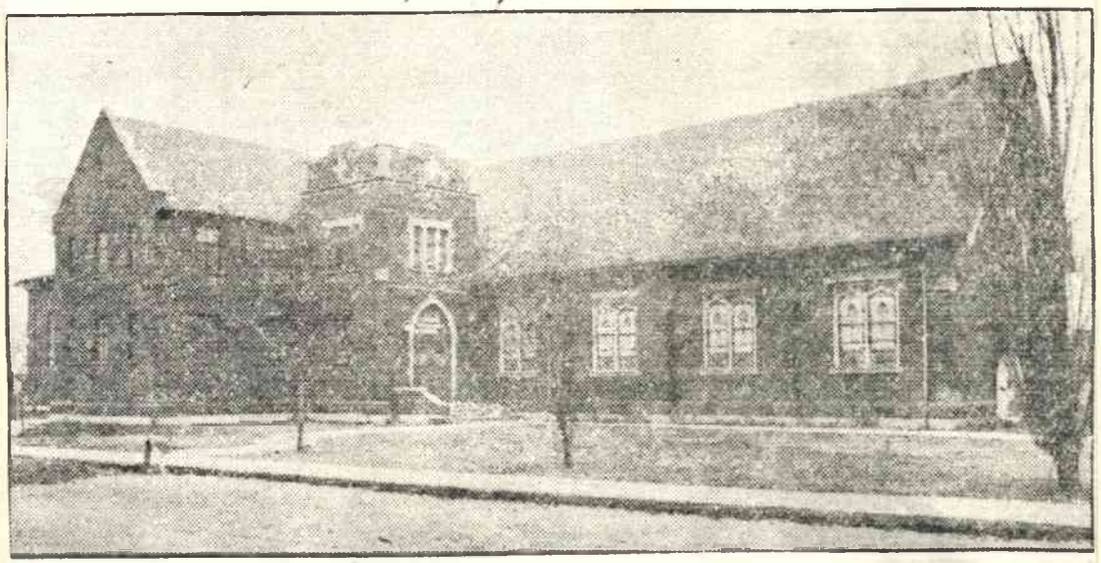
Community Affairs File

Churches WV

HALF CENTURY OF CHURCH PROGRESS TO BE OBSERVED BY TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

11/25/45



Members of the congregation and friends of the Trintiy Methodist church will join in the observance of the church's fiftieth anniversary with an all-day program of services to be held on Sunday, Dec. 2.

CAF

Churches (WV)
Trinity Methodist

TRINITY CHURCH'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

12/24/'25

Founded Long Ago In Sparsley Settled Part of North Side.

Anna Bowles Wiley.

Forty years of service to the Lord will be marked Sunday, Dec. 1, by the congregation of Trinity Methodist church. Nineteenth street and Third avenue. That is considerable of a vista to encompass, forty years, nearly a half century, steadily growing from a small room over a meat market at 1109 North Thirteenth street, where the first meeting was held, to the stately brick office where worship is now being

must remark the growth of hes all over the land, during t century, the veritable grain rd seed, from which spring buildings, with growing ually growing member- which this is one. began with cottage ings the first group a embers who had pre- a center in the Cen- list church. The late was the moving rst meeting was held of John Godwin. e outgrown by the me from his sec- d the room over as secured. is church was rch at Four- teenth street and Third avenue was built. Can you imagine what joy filled the hearts of these charter members and those who had joined their circle, when a real church lifted its steeple and the doors opened wide for any and all who might wish to come?

This church was sold in 1926 to the Church of God congregation and they are still occupying it. In 1925, however, ambition for a new church started a nest egg, that grew like the proverbial snow ball, until the members decided to build another building adequate for the still growing numbers.

Ground was broken at Nineteenth street and Fourth avenue. Mrs. Mary Cline, now dead, and mother of Mrs. Nellie Gibbons, another charter member, turned the first shovel full of earth that started the foundation, just as Mrs. W. T. Budd had turned the first earth when the frame church was built.

Hands long folded to dust helped earn the money for the new church. Oyster suppers, dinners, rummage sales (among the first here, by the way), entertainments and what not—such things by which women raise their part of the financing of any and all church efforts—and they moved into this modern building in 1927.

Mrs. Minnie Hessmer took her place at the organ again, she was the first pianist of the church and a march triumphant was played at the first services. It was recalled at this meeting how the congregation was first formed. Memory recalled that worship above the meat market was a more or less hazardous affair because the building rocked, it was so old, with loud singing or heavy tread.

They remembered that Rev. Tucker, who had been pastor at Centenary forty years ago preached the sermon at the first church meeting

Seated in the audience to hear him were these first members, who signed the church charter: Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge Asbury, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Terrance, W. A. Barton, Miss Lizzie Barton, Miss Carrie Barton, John Godwin, Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin, J. H. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sherman, Mrs. Mary C. Johnson, Fremon Schofield, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. Cline, Jabez Asbury, Mrs. Atmore, W. T. Budd, Mrs. Mary Markle, J. M. Tygart, Mrs. Lockwood, Mrs. Ball—all dead.

The living are: Mrs. Julia Gammie, Mrs. Fremont Schofield Mrs. Jabez Asbury, Mrs. W. T. Budd, Mrs. J. M. Tygart, Mrs. Eva Slusser, Mrs. Dolly Smith, Mrs. Nell Cline Gibbons, Mrs. Marie Asbury Hood, Mrs. Minnie Hessmer Lunsford, Miss Nellie Armstrong.

Those in the list represent the quick and the dead; those who have passed to their reward outnumber the living list, still carrying on, it is true, but the perfume of their presence will be with them in spirit today, as they note that forty years have slipped away into the past and are now history—religious history of Terre Haute.

Today, there will be an all-day celebration, a getting together of former members and those who call "Old Trinity" their church home. Former pastors who can will return for the occasion.

Rev. Fenwick Reed, who is now at Greencastle in the same district, will preach the sermon at morning worship. Rev. Parkins, of Chicago, Ill., will talk in the evening, and in the afternoon there will be a program in charge of the charter members. The history of the church will be read. Many who are new members will learn of the struggle that was theirs in founding their own religious entity.

There will be a special program of music. The Wilton chorus will sing in the morning. In the afternoon the history of the church will be exemplified in pageant form. The A-Capella choir will sing. The program is in charge of Mrs. L. L. Reed. Friends are invited to the day's celebration.

The present pastor, Rev. Voris B. Servies, will assist with the program as will Buell Wampler, superintendent of Sunday school. The choir leader is Miss Lena Showalter.

At the noon hour a chance for relaxation and conversation will be given at the basket dinner. Members and friends from near and far will unload overflowing baskets of good things to eat, which will be another high light of the day, which is being planned to mark what the congregation believes is a milestone of great importance on their road of life.

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Churches WV
Trinity UM

Churches (TH)

Church sets dedication

T NOV 1 1978

A new memorial chapel and three sanctuary windows are to be dedicated at the Sunday morning services of the Trinity United Methodist Church, 129 N. 19th St.

The Rev. Alda Carter, superintendent of the Terre Haute District of the United Methodist Church, is to be the guest speaker. The Rev. Carter's sermon is "The Foundation of Our Faith."

During the morning worship, which begins at 10:30 a.m., the church is to dedicate three sanctuary windows in memory of former members. A new memorial chapel is to be dedicated, also.

Dedication of the windows are in memory of Lula Flack, who died in 1973; Lena Moeller, former organist who died in 1976; and the Charles Kline family.

A chapel built in the old "Tower Room" is to dedicated. Called the "Henderson Memorial Prayer Chapel" in honor of the late Nellie Henderson, the chapel was built by the Homebuilders Class.

The church is to dedicate altar, pulpit and lecturn paraments in memory of Faye Trimble who died in 1974.

A hymn board and registration board located in the sanctuary are to be dedicated in memory of Mary Records who passed away this summer.

Community Affairs File

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Churches (Trinity) CVV
Trinity U.M.

Vigo County Public Library

Trinity UM Church Marks 80th Anniversity

(Churches (Trinity)
Community Affairs File
OCT 7 1976

Members of Trinity United Methodist Church, 1209 N. 13th St., will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of their church, and the 50th anniversary in the present building, on Sunday with a full day of activities planned.

The day will begin at 8:45 a.m. with a coffee and fellowship hour for members and friends of the church. Special guests Bishop Ralph Alton of the Indiana Area of the United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Charles DuMond of the Terre Haute District, are expected to arrive at 9:30 a.m. and greet members at the coffee prior to the 10 a.m. service.

Bishop Alton will serve as the special guest minister at the morning worship. His topic will be "We, the People," The Rev. DuMond and the Rev. Dale Waltz of Trinity will also participate in the morning worship. with a special musical program also featured' including a solo by Mike Slover.

Following the morning worship service, there will be a basket dinner at the gymnasium and all members, former members and friends are welcome to join in fellowship.

The afternoon program will have a homecoming theme and will begin at 1 p.m. Louise Paitson Clark, organist, and Martha Phillips Cundiff, pianist, both former members of Trinity, will perform "Sanctus" by Gounod. Vocal duets by Dan and Cindy Lampton and by Frances Buell and Mike Slover are also planned. Greetings from the many former pastors of Trinity, delivered in person or by correspondence, will highlight the afternoon which will be concluded with a hymn sing.

The occasion marks the 80th anniversity of the founding of the original Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. Trinity was founded as Levering Mission in November 1895 and dedicated as Trinity Church on Oct. 10, 1896. Originally located at 15th St. and Third Ave., the present building at 1209 N. 19th St., was built in 1926 and first occupied in 1927. The congregation represents a merger of the "original" Trinity, the Liberty Avenue Methodist Church and the Park Avenue Methodist Church, and was refounded as Trinity United Methodist Church in 1963.

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Famous 74-Year-Old Church Pipe Organ Is Moved to New Structure

By MARY ANNE PIERCE
Tribune Staff Writer

Piece by piece, slowly and meticulously, a 74-year-old organ is being disassembled and removed from the United Methodist Church.

The original organ, a Barckhoff, was played for the first time May 27, 1895 by Carl F. Hansen, celebrated organist, who gave a recital as part of building dedication ceremonies. Its original solid oak case will be seen from the choir balcony in the new building when installation is compelte, according to Russel McCoy, organist at the church, who is particpating in its removal.

Besides the original manufacturer, numerous organ companies will be represented when the instrument is reassembled and increased in size. Most of the parts are by Bennett, McCoy said, and the console is a Skinner and pipes are by Moller.

The blower will be taken from the old organ that once was an important part of services at the Brazil First Presbyterian Church. It was purchased by Bill Westerman and given to United Methodist Temple. The three main consoles were taken from a church in Vermont.

Work on removal of the instrument began July 28. The pipes which, according to McCoy, can be crushed merely by finger pressure, are being stored in the new church. All wooden parts are being carefully marked with crayon and all storage boxes are being labeled to indicate pressure of pipes and other information vital to assembling the instrument. Moller pipes require the least identification, McCoy said, as they come from the factory well marked.

The workmen hope to have the organ back together and ready for the beautiful music of the Christmas season. The church will use an electronic organ which belongs to McCoy in the interim.

When finished they will have installed the largest instrument of its type currently in Vigo County. It will have 34 ranks of pipes, 13 more than the original one had. McCoy said even though the sound cannot be forecast in the new building and carpeting will cut down on the ring and reverberation, he is predicting the Christmas carols will be beautiful as they flow from the huge instrument.

Working with him on the project are Chester Collier, who has supervised the job; Cindy Sparks, Frank Gaich, Jack Brewer, Myrtle Conklin, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Husted, Vera Wright, Carolyn Sawyer, Warren Gardiner, Charles Purcell and Cliff Kylander.

Community Affairs File

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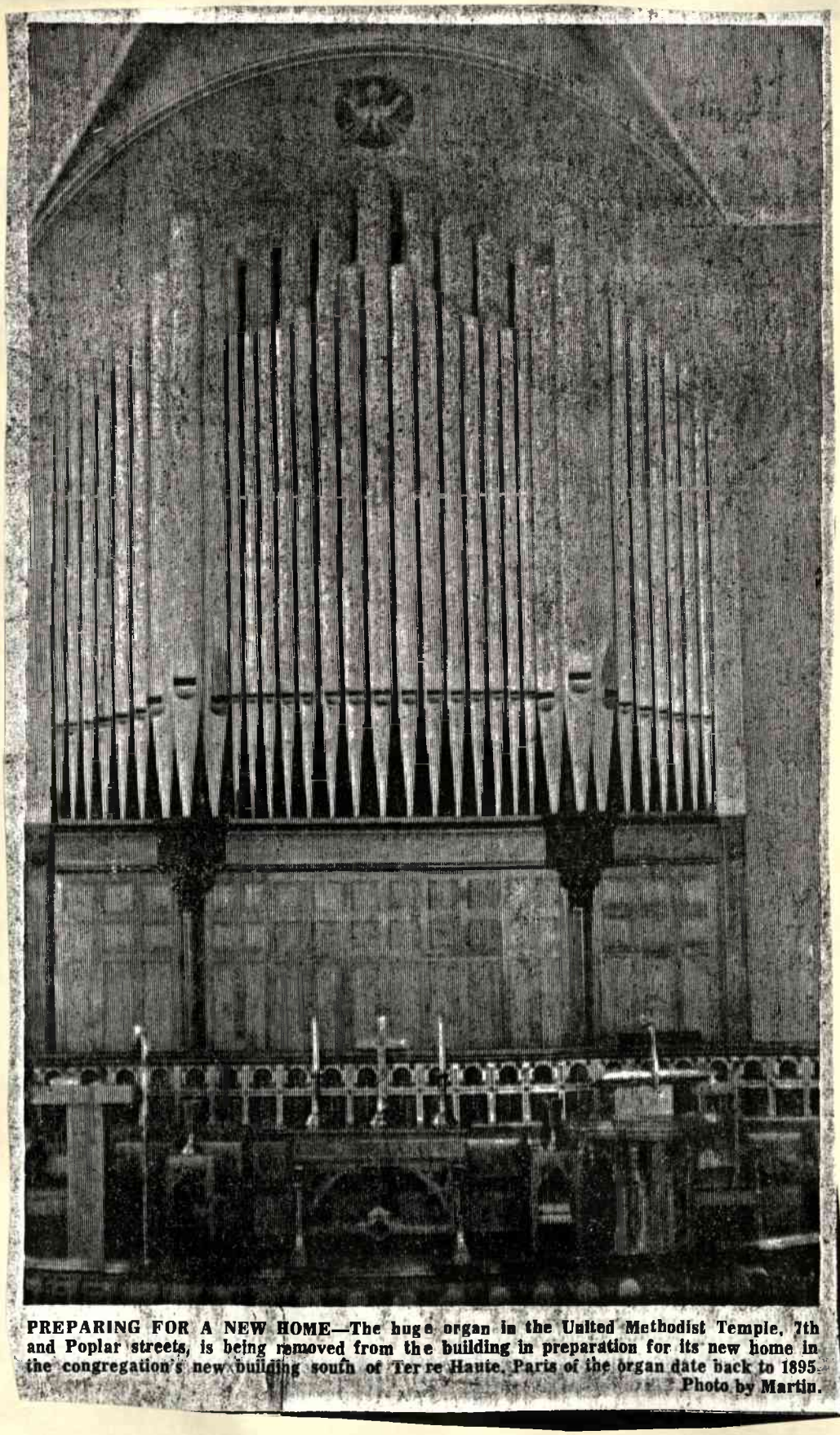

PREPARING FOR A NEW HOME—The huge organ in the United Methodist Temple, 7th and Poplar streets, is being removed from the building in preparation for its new home in the congregation's new building south of Terre Haute. Parts of the organ date back to 1895. Photo by Martin.

United Methodist Temple - 5001 Dixie Bee Rd. U.M. Temple

attend.

APR 16 1980 Churches (UM) CAF

Church pipe organ to be dedicated Sunday

The recently installed pipe organ at the United Methodist Temple, 5001 Dixie Bee Rd., will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Sunday.

All Temple members and friends are invited to the dedication which will feature a recital by William Alan Jenne.

The organ, built by the Moeller Organ Company, Hagerstown, Md., consists of two manuals and full three-and-one-quarter octave pedal board. The swell manual has nine stops and a tremelo and the great manual has nine stops and tremelo. The pedal division has 10 stops. The same chimes are being used that were in the organ when the Temple was located at Seventh and Poplar streets, before the new building was built in 1969.

Jenne is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and a current resident of Hamilton, Ohio where he is the director of music at Zion Lutheran Church, a position he has held for 14 years. He has a bachelor of church music degree from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and a master of music degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

In addition to his regular duties as a church musician, he teaches both organ and piano, accompanies instrumental and vocal performers and gives recitals on the organ. His most recent performances have been with the Hamilton Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble and the rededication recital on the rebuilt Moeller organ at the Hamilton Zion Lutheran Church.

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United Methodist Temple Conducts First Worship

T. H. Churches

T.H. Star 9/8/69

By FRANCES E. HUGHES
Star Staff Writer

After a brief worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the United Methodist Temple on the northwest corner of Seventh and Poplar streets and a ceremony of locking the doors for the last time, members of the congregation formed an auto caravan to take them to their new church at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Seventh Street, south of the city.

There, the first worship service in the new church at 10:30 a.m. was conducted by the Rev. Jasper Cox, pastor of the church. The Rev. Charles Welch, of the board of missions of the United Methodist Church, New York City, preached the sermon. There also was special music.

It will be early in November before the rebuilt organ, which was removed from the old church, will be completed and in use.

+ + +

The old church — the cornerstone for which was laid July 15, 1894 was sold last January to the Marathon Oil Company. After the first of the year, the building will be razed by the oil company and a new contemporary style service station will be built on the site.

The cornerstone consecration for the new church took place in a ceremony at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24.

The United Methodist Temple is the oldest Methodist Church in the community. The building vacated Sunday was completed and ready for dedication May 26, 1895. At that time, it was one of the largest Methodist churches in the state. The cost, which exceeded the estimate, was $42,000.

The church was then known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Terre Haute. When the dedication services were conducted May 19-26, 1895, the congregation bade farewell to the old Asbury Church, its predecessor.

+ + +

In 1839, the Methodists had erected a church at the cost of $800 at the corner of Fourth and Poplar streets. In 1839, town officials issued a deed of conveyance for the real estate to Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

When the building became too small for the congregation, a new building was built in 1841, also dedicated as the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

The church continued to grow, and March 8, 1892, a deed was executed for the purchase of the site at Seventh and Poplar streets from Sarah C. Deming by trustees of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church for the sum of $8,500. Plans were then drawn for building of the church vacated Sunday.

The church observed its centennial with a celebration in November of 1941.

+ + +

The name was changed to the Methodist Temple in 1929, after a merger between the First Methodist and Centenary, formed in 1925, was terminated. It carried that name for 40 years until a merger between the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church, when it became known as United Methodist Temple.

With sentiment about the past, members have had a bell, weighing nearly 6,000 pounds, which called worshippers to Sunday services as early as 1843, moved to the new building. It will be hung from a 40-foot steel tower in the center court. Attention will be called to it by a huge cross mounted above it.

The church organ, which dates back to 1895 when the old church was built, also is being moved to the new church to be rebuilt in the choir balcony. Slowly and meticulously, the organ is being disassembled and moved.

+ + +

The original organ, a Barckhodd, was played for the first time by Carl F. Hansen, celebrated organist, on May 27, 1895. The original solid oak case will be seen from the choir balcony in the new church. In addition to the original manufacturer, parts in the newly - assembled organ will be by Bennett, the console a Skinner and pipes by Moller.

The blower, from an old organ that once was an important part of services at the Brazil First Presbyterian Church, is being kept. It was purchased by Bill Westerman and given to the new church. The three main consoles were taken from a church in Vermont.

When completed, this will be the largest instrument of its type in Vigo County. It will have 34 ranks of pipes, 13 more than the original one had. Russell McCoy, organist of the church. is anticipating playing the new instrument.

+ + +

Also saved for the new church were leaded art glass windows of the old church, which will be used as decorative screens accenting the interior of the new building.

Of brick veneer and laminated wood arches and beams, the new church covers 19,150 square feet. When completely furnished, it will cost approximately $500,000. The sanctuary will seat approximately 400 persons. Besides the sanctuary, there is an adjoining chapel 14 by 16 feet in size. There is ample parking space.

The Rev. Mr. Welch will remain in the city through Sept. 16, to direct a Christian Responsibility Crusade in which all members will be contacted and asked to prayerfully review their financial responsibilities to the church. They will be making new Capital Funds pledges for a period of 169 weeks, and Operating Expenses pledges for a period of 65 weeks.

The Crusade general chairman is Warren Gardiner. Vern Fellows is general visitation chairman, Joe Petty is publicity chairman, and Mrs. Gerald Stoughton is arrangements chairman. Mrs. James R. Hunter is crusade secretary.

Fellows has announced his three division leaders will be Dr. Robert R. Brown, Dr. Loy L. Hudson, and Hubert O. Ritter, Jr. To fill team captain spots; they have enlisted the services of Jane Frakes, Richard Isles, Tony Krug, Betty Palmer, Kenneth Payne, Gerald Stoughton, Rush Cain, Dr. Fred Dierdorf, Homer Rice, Vera Wright, John A. Kesler, Fred S. McWilliams, Tom Jacques, Jr. and Howard Junker, Sr.

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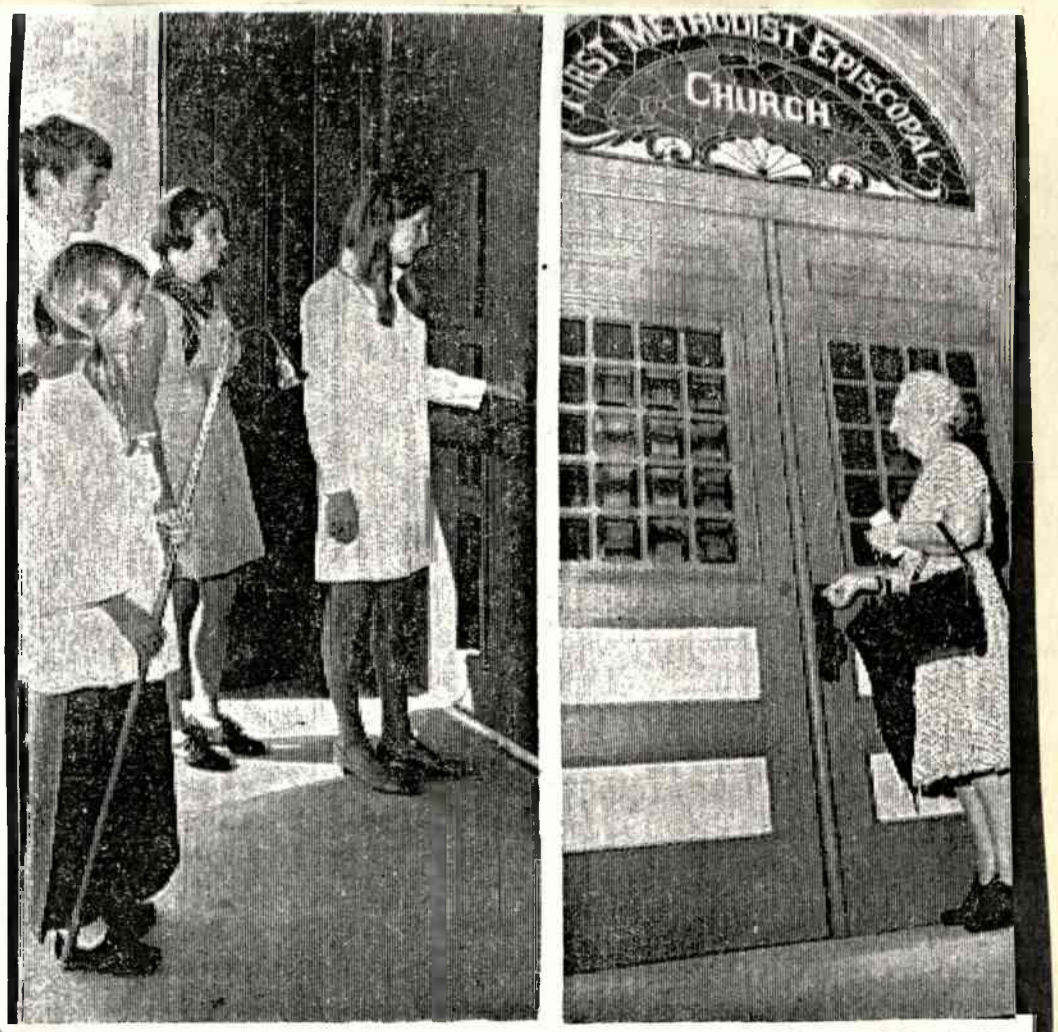
CONGREGATION FILLS NEW CHURCH — Nearly all pews were filled Sunday at the new United Methodist Temple at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Seventh Street, south of Terre Haute. The Rev. Jasper Cox, pastor of the church, led an auto caravan from a brief worship service at the old United Methodist Temple on the northwest corner of Seventh and Poplar to the new church for the 10:30 service. (Photo by Kadel)



KEY CEREMONY OPENS NEW CHURCH — Miss Claire Cundiff, in picture at left, unlocks the door of the new United Methodist Temple Sunday at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Seventh Street, south of the city. Other observers are: Susan Ritter, with candle lighter, Robbie Beyers and Mary Christy. Mrs. Enid Royer, 75 Monterey Ave., pictured right, locks the doors of the old United Methodist Temple at the corner of Seventh and Poplar streets. Mrs. Royer has been a member of the church for 62 years and was church secretary for 46½ years. Photos by Kadel)

Churches LVV

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United Methodist Temple Planning Fall Festival

A two-day Harvest Festival will take place Oct. 18 and 19 at the United Methodist Temple, 5001 Dixie Bee Rd., in observance of the church's first birthday in the new location.

During the past five years the temple has experienced both spiritual and physical growth under the direction of Rev. Charles R. Lane.

Rev. Lane was assigned as parish pastor in June 1970. The church is the oldest church in Terre Haute and dates back to 1826.

The church program has grown to two Sunday morning services, at 9 and 11 a.m. Youth and adult church school classes are conducted between the two services.

Mrs. Martha McKown has been appointed as full time director of christian education, assisting Rev. Lane.

There are three active church school couples classes, two women's classes and a class for college-career young people is in the planning stages.

The youth groups are an integral part of the church, taking an active role in the overall program. There are classes for all ages and the crib room is practically overflowing.

Both men and women have active organizations with regular meeting dates, fund raising projects and community service projects.

The women sponsor an auxiliary interest groups. The Mary Moon Missionary Guild is active, both at home and abroad. The Social Service group assists in community aid. The Handy Annes, a crafts group, is planning the Harvest Festival and there are three study groups that meet throughout the day.

A library is underway and books are now available to be checked out on a monthly basis.

An active encounter group meets regularly as a result of a series of meetings held at the temple during "Key 73."

A series of inquiry classes are conducted to enlighten those who are interested in church membership. Confirmation classes for children are also held each year.

The temple is believed to be the only church in the city with a Yokefellow program. Four such groups have completed the course, seven are in progress, and a new one is being formed.

The Temple Bells, an hand bell choir, is comprised of 11 women plus the director. They participate in the worship services on the fourth Sunday of each month. In addition, they go to nursing homes and to civic and social affairs.

Another innovation is the "hanging of the green." In the evening of Advent Sunday the sanctuary is decorated during narration by the pastor, music from the choirs and the hand bell choir.

During the past five years new furnishings have been added, landscaping and painting have been accomplished and the large bell from the old church has been put into part time operation. The organ, second largest in the city, has added harp and tower chimes.

The festival will be a day and a half of fellowship, food and fund raising.

TEMPLE BELLS—A hand bell choir of the United Methodist Temple, 5001 Dixie Bee Road, participates in the worship services on the fourth Sunday of each month. The choir, the only one in Terre Haute, entertains at civic and social affairs. Pictured, from left, are Betty Brunell, Betty Champion, Dorothy Bender, Aileen Ditto, Edith Stoughton, Vera Wright, director; Pat Chamberlain, Flora Petty, Tina Connell and Kristen Henderson. Not present are Eloise Boyer and Kathryn Sowyer. Mayes Photo.

Churches WV

Community Affairs File

United Methodist Temple To Mark Its 150th Year

T AUG 2 5 1976

"A New Frontier" is the topic of the Rev. Charles Lane's sermon for Aug. 29 when the United Methodist Temple will celebrate both the American Bicentennial and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the local church. He will be joined by the Rev. Mike Biggs to preside at the communion altar for the worship service at 9:30 a.m.

The day will also be observed as Church School Promotion Day with ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. and at the same hour the Fifth Sunday Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Builders Class in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

Open house will be observed during the afternoon, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., with an array of historical items on display arranged by Leslie Mason, church historian. Members and others attending are welcome to appear in Colonial costume. All events are open to the public.

Notes on the founding of the local church report that the original site, on the northwest corner of 4th and Poplar streets, was made available by town planners in 1816, offering it to the first church organization able to build on it.

That turned out to be the Methodists who laid the cornerstone for a small frame structure in 1834 at a cost of $800. The first pastor was the Rev. Edwin Ray who has been followed by 46 appointees since that time.

The church first was called Asbury Chapel in homnor of Francis Asbury. In 1841, a new church building of brick and stone replaced the chapel under the name, the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Old Asbury," as the church was known, served the congregation until 1894 when growth brought the purchase of a building site at 7th and Poplar streets where the First Methodist Episcopal Church was erected, its name changed to Methodist Temple in 1929.

The merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Bretheren then brought the name, United Methodist Temple, and on Aug. 24, 1969, the congregation moved to the new UMT Church at 5001 Dixie Bee Road. Two pastors serve the membership which now numbers 700.

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CHURCHES W.V.

BELL RINGERS—The Bell Ringers Choir of the United Methodist Temple is the only choir of its kind in the immediate area. Members, from left, include Aubrey Hodgers, Kathryn Sawyer, Dorothy Kylander, Edith Stoughton, Vera Wright, Pat Chamberlain, Betty Champion, Cindy Davies, Alleene Ditto, and Carolyn Sawyer. Martin Photo.

Methodist Temple Forms Bell Ringers

(Churches (T.H.)

United Methodist Temple is pleased to introduce its Bell Ringers Choir to the community, particularly since it is the only choir of its kind within a radius of 75 miles.

These bells, not to be confused with the smaller, tinkling type of bell, had their beginning in England.

In the seventeenth century the English invented handbells to replace the "change-ringing" huge church-tower bells in use up to that time. Larger sets of hand bells were cast in the eighteenth century, and groups were formed to ring them. These were the first Bell-Ringers choirs.

The Golden Age for hand-bell ringing came a century later and concerts and contests for hand bell choirs were very popular, especially in northern England. This popularity waned in the early twentieth century, however, and perhaps the art might have been lost had not P. T. Barnum heard a hand bell choir in England. He was so impressed that he brought the group to America to perform in his circus. He had the idea that "Swiss Bell Ringers" would sound more glamorous than "English Hand Bells," thus the myth of the "Swiss Bells" was perpetrated.

After WW II the English hand bell choirs were revitalized and are again becoming popular. The complete set consists of fifty bells. United Methodist Temple owns half that number, having two complete chromatic

Churches (TH)

New United Methodist Temple

Churches VV

to Be Ready By Sept. 7

By MARY ANN PIERCE
Tribune Staff Writer

Remnants of the past will be blended into the new and modernistic design of the United Methodist Temple, nearing completion south of Terre Haute on U.S. Highway 41. Moving is expected to be completed by Sept. 7.

Several items that played an important role in the early religious life of Vigo County are being taken from the present church at 7th and Poplar Sts., and will be installed in the new building.

A bell weighing nearly 6,000 pounds, which called worshippers to Sunday services as early as 1843 when the church was known as the Asbury Church, will have its place of honor in the new structure. It will eventually be hung from a 40-foot steel tower in the center court where its pealing will call attention to a huge cross mounted above it.

A place of honor has also been reserved in the choir balcony for the church organ which dates back to 1895, the year when the present building was dedicated as the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

Leaded art glass windows admired for years by passersby traveling Poplar or 7th streets are being saved for the new church. They will be used as decorative screens accenting the interior of the building, according to a board member.

Cost Is $500,000

The new church, built of brick veneer and laminated wood arches and beams, covers 19,150 square feet. When completely furnished it will cost approximately $500,000, according to Vernon Fellows, a member of the board of trustees.

It is situated on the south side of Highway 41 near the Blocksom Road with its three wings facing the highway at an angle and surrounding a center court yard. The wings contain a classroom area, the nave or sanctuary area and a fellowship-kitchen area.

The sanctuary will seat approximately 400 persons. Pews and exposed beams in the ceiling are light oak. Carpeting is red tweed and the walls are in pastels and white. Hexagonal shaped light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling. They are of antique brass with a white opal design and bits of colored acrylic are embedded in them. The acrylic matches the windows in the church which are of the same material in a variety of colors.

An adjoining chapel, measuring 14 feet by 16 feet, is also done in pastels and white accenting the light oak altar and pews. Its carpeting is in shades of green and gold.

The entire building will be heated by gas forced air and will be completely air-conditioned.

Ample Parking Space

Ample parking space will surround the building. Parking has been a problem for the congregation in recent years at the present church.

The site of Highway 41 was selected, according to a board member, in order to serve the residents in that general area where there is no Methodist Church, he said.

Hannig and Associates were architects for the construction project.

The building on Poplar Street has been sold to an oil company. It will reportedly be torn down and a service station will be erected in its place.

The cornerstone facing 7th Street that bears the words "Asbury Church, founded in 1841" will be given to the Vigo County Historical Society. The stone was taken from the former Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church which was built at the corner of 4th and Poplar streets on a plot of land set aside by the city of Terre Haute. It was

Community Affairs File

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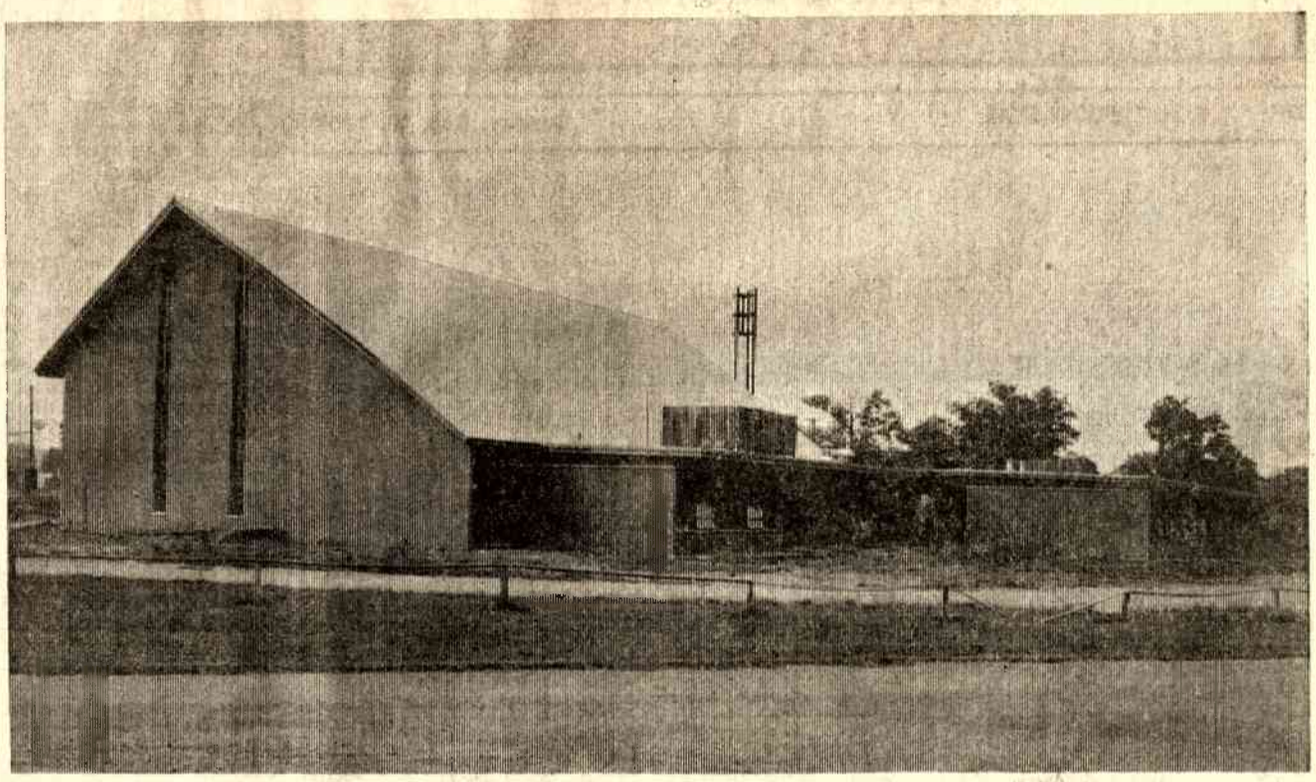
A LANDMARK GOES—The United Methodist Temple, a familiar building at the corner of Poplar and 7th streets since dedicated in 1895 will soon be torn down. The congregation is making plans to move into its new building on U.S. Highway 41 south of Terre Haute. The cornerstone reads "First Methodist Episcopal Church, 1894" an earlier name for the church. **Photo by Martin.**



MODERNISTIC IN DESIGN — The new United Methodist Temple, located south of Terre Haute on U.S. Highway 41 near the Blocksom Road, is nearing completion. The congregation is planning to hold its first services in the building Sept. 7.

one of three pieces of property granted by the city in 1816 — one for a church, one for the court house and one for a school.

In the first church library there were 20 bibles, 20 hymn books, 36 testaments, 24 spelling books and 50 volumes of Children's Library. In 15 years the library had grown to 1,200 volumes.

Church Library Grows

The growth of the library over the years matched the growth of the congregation and by 1889 a movement was underway to build a new church. The present site on Poplar was selected and the building was dedicated in 1895. It cost the congregation $42,000. The new cornerstone read "First Methodist Episcopal Church."

A parsonage built at the rear of the church on the Poplar Street side in 1908 later became an educational unit for elementary children adding to the church size.

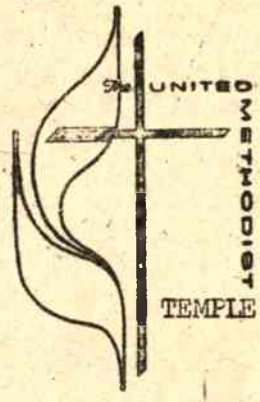
The church became known as Methodist Temple in 1929 after a merger between First Methodist and Centenary, formed in 1925, was terminated.

It carried that name for 40 years until a merger between the Evangelical United Brethern Church and the Methodist Church. At that time it became known as United Methodist Temple, according to Mrs. Dorothy Kylander, active in the present building program and a 30-year member of the church.

Moving will be completed and the first service is planned in the new church Sept. 7. Church board members and building program committeemen will meet with the architects Aug. 15 for an official tour prior to the opening.

Community Affairs File

Churches (W.V.)
United Methodists
Temple



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A HISTORY OF UNITED METHODIST TEMPLE

Methodism was introduced into Indiana in the first years of the nineteenth century by the circuit riders, a sturdy band of young, self-reliant dedicated Methodist ministers who feared neither man nor beast, wilderness nor Indian. One of them was described as "a tall, slender young man, in the prime of life. His hair was clipped short from the forehead half way back, and the remainder was allowed to grow eight or ten inches long, so as to reach down to his shoulders, and hung loosely about his neck. This peculiar method of hair dressing was recognized as the Methodist preacher fashion, and was quite generally followed by all the preachers".

The circuit riders generally wore homespun clothing. At one Conference several ministers were severely criticized for wearing "store-bought" clothes.

Around 1810 a traveling preacher was allowed $64 per year and from this he usually provided his own horse and equipment, such as saddle and saddlebags, and in few cases did he receive all he was allowed.

Inns being non-existent along the circuits in those days and funds for lodging nearly as scarce, circuit riders depended on the hospitality of the settlers for food and lodging and were seldom disappointed. If a circuit rider was not familiar with the route, his host frequently guided him to his next destination. If he was setting up a new circuit, he arranged at each settlement a time and place for public worship, where people might assemble and form the germ of a Christian church. He urged the people to meet and form prayer meetings until a minister could be furnished to supply the circuit.

One record states that about 1822 in Decatur County, "John Robins began to hunt for a preacher that

could take them into his circuit, and supply them with preaching. Meanwhile he appointed prayer-meetings at his own house". This is an example of how the first steps toward the formation of a church could be taken even before a circuit rider was available.

Some of the circuits were quite large. In 1825 the Vincennes circuit included 22 preaching places in four counties, Knox, Davis, Martin and Greene. In 1823-1824 Aaron Wood traveled 2250 miles, preached 280 sermons, and received $50 for his year's salary.

It is interesting to note that up to 1816 all the Indiana circuits, except the Vincennes and Lawrenceburg, were named after streams. The reason for these names is obvious. The early settlements were along rivers and creeks, and these streams and valleys served as natural highways for the new country, and the circuit naturally derived its name from the stream along which the cabins of the settlers belonging to the circuit were located.

The barroom was often the first place thrown open for preaching in a western village, and the landlord would pride himself on maintaining good order during the service. A sermon preached in a tavern by James Conwell led to the conversion of the tavern-keeper, who disposed of his liquors and opened his barroom for preaching, and it remained the permanent place of worship until the erection of the village church.

A circuit rider preaching in a tavern one noon was endeavoring to show his listeners in plain words the folly of serving the devil. "Now", he said, "if you want to be happy, the devil can't make you happy. He is the most wretched being in all the universe; and, as misery loves company, he will drag you down to his own fiery abode. If you are seeking for honor, the devil has none to bestow; he is the most dishonorable being that lives. And if you are looking for

wealth, the devil has none of it; if you were to sweep hell from one end to the other, you would not get a sixpence". A large, honest, but coarse looking fellow, sitting right before the preacher, with eyes and mouth wide open, exclaimed, unconsciously, "God! money is as scarce thar as it is here."

One noticable fact in regard to the church, and particularly Methodist history in Indiana, is that, as a rule, the first societies were formed in the country. In many towns, the property holders and office seekers were opposed to all forms of religion. Among the early settlers in Indiana were "criminals from the east and others of criminal tendencies, who found restraints of the law disagreeable." This class took up its headquarters in the villages and about the village taverns. This fact made the village an unprofitable field, while those who settled in the country were more easily influenced by religious teaching.

The term "Station", first appeared among Indiana appointments in 1825. A minister appointed to a station would serve that church full time, preaching there every Sunday and usually at other times during the week. He was usually a former circuit rider whose health would not permit him to go out on a circuit, or one with a wife and children to support. Many of the older circuit riders opposed doing away with the circuit system, maintaining that it was this system, more than anything else, that had been responsible for the great progress of Methodism on the frontier. But as the towns grew in population and wealth the demand of the membership in these larger places became more and more insistent for stationed preachers, and as time went on the number of stations greatly increased.

A rule of the church which made marriage for the young itinerant very difficult and romantic love

affairs next to impossible was the requirement that the unmarried minister consult his brothern on the subject before he mentioned love or marriage to the young lady of his choice. The rule did not say which brethern were to be consulted, but the presiding elders always assumed that they were ex-officio to be consulted.

In one home in the 1830s was an accomplished daughter who had favorably impressed three young preachers, and each determined to take the first opportunity of consulting the presiding elder on the subject of matrimony. Accordingly all three went to a camp meeting held in their district. None knew why the others were there. One obtained an early interview. He began by telling the elder that his years of celibacy were about up, and that he had been making the matter of marriage a subject of prayer, and that the Lord had indicated to him that he ought to marry. The elder inquired who was the happy girl, and received the reply, "Cora-----". "A splendid girl", said the elder, "and will make any man a good wife." And soon the young preacher was on his faithful horse speeding to Cora's home to begin his courtship.

Soon after this, young preacher number two drew the elder to one side and made practically the same speech and received the same reply and endorsement of Cora. Later in the day preacher number three had a hearing, making a similar speech and winding up as the others had done with Cora. To him, however, the elder replied, "Now see here, my young brother, there must have been a mistake somewhere. Cora is a splendid girl, but you are the third man today who has said the Lord had indicated her for a wife. Somebody must have misunderstood the Lord."

One of the first services conducted by a circuit rider in Vincennes was held on a Sabbath evening at

the fort, on the Wabash. The congregation was made up of a few government officials, a few English speaking settlers, two or three Indians, and the Governor of the Territory, William Henry Harrison. There were only a few tallow candles to furnish light for the service, and one of these was held by the governor to enable the young circuit rider to read his text and line out the hymn. (Harrison, a Presbyterian, was always a firm friend of the circuit rider.)

In the spring of 1801 Revs. Samuel Parker and Edwin Talbot held a two day meeting at Springville. This was located in Clark's Grant, now Clark County, Indiana, one and a half miles west of the present town of Charlestown and a few miles up the river from Louisville. This is the first reliable record of Methodist preaching in Indiana.

The first circuit to include any of Indiana was the Salt River and Shelby circuit, mostly in Kentucky, about 1803.

The first circuit exclusively in Indiana was the Silver Creek circuit, organized in 1807. This was in the southeastern part of Indiana, running north from New Albany.

The first Methodist church in Indiana was Robertson's Meeting House, now called Old Bethel Church. It was built in 1807 by the Nathan Robertson family near Charlestown and is now relocated and restored on the grounds of the Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church near the campus of DePauw University at Greencastle.

In the year 1808 a new district was added to the Western Conference, the Indiana district, and thus the name Indiana appears on Methodist records for the first time. This new district had six cir-

cuits, the Illinois, which included all the settlements in that territory, the Missouri, another statewide circuit, and the Maramack, the Cold Water, the Whitewater, and the Silver Creek circuits. In 1809 Peter Cartwright helped form the Vincennes circuit, the second circuit exclusively in Indiana.

On September 26, 1811, General William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Territory of Indiana and future President of the United States, set out from Vincennes with 910 men on a march northward through the wilderness. On October 2 they reached a point on the Wabash River three miles north of what is now Wabash Avenue of Terre Haute. The next day the troops started to build a fort, completing it October 27th. It was named Fort William H. Harrison.

In many accounts of the early years of Vigo County it is reported that Jonathan Stamper was chaplain of the Kentucky troops at Fort Harrison, and that in 1812 he preached the first Protestant sermon in Vigo County. Your Historian has not been able to find any account of when he reached the fort (with the troops in 1811 or at a later date), or where, if anywhere, he preached outside the area of the fort (in the farming area of Vigo County or in the area soon to become the village of Terre Haute), or when he left Vigo County. There is some evidence that he was a Methodist preacher, but your Historian has not had the opportunity to confirm this.

No denomination was strong enough to build a church in Terre Haute before 1834, and the first church was supported by farmers in the country, by the Barnes, Brown, Dixon, Jackson, Lambert, Wilkes, Ostrander and other families. As early as 1813 a society of these farmers held meetings on the Sabbath.

The families of John Dickson (or Dixon) and Isaac

Lambert, brothers-in-law, settled on Otter Creek. Joshua A. Olds and his family came from the east, and Olds, being a skilled millright and carpenter, built the first water mill in the county (and north of Vincennes) on Honey Creek for the above Dickson and Lambert in 1816. The Dickson-Lambert mill was badly damaged by a flood, repaired, and then completely destroyed by another flood, and was not rebuilt.

The first Methodist preacher, other than possibly Jonathan Stamper, who visited Vigo County was Jacob Turman who preached at the cabin of John Dickson near Roger's Springs and organized a class consisting of Dickson and his wife, Lambert and his wife, and William Winters, who was named class leader. At one time a company of Indians approached the Lambert house during a religious service with the intention of murdering the occupants. As they drew near the house the congregation was singing and praying, and such was the influence of the music and prayers on them that they quietly retired. They told the interpreter at a treaty not long afterward that they retired out of veneration for the Great Spirit. One report says that just the night before they had massacred the settlers south of Honey Creek.

Dr. Claude Young, a former pastor of this church, wrote in 1941 that "The first Methodist Societies in Vigo County were in the country around Terre Haute. The first services for Methodists in Terre Haute were held in the Court House, which was completed in 1822. However, the first Methodist sermon preached in Terre Haute was preached in the barroom of the Indian Chief Inn in 1819 with seven Methodists and eighteen other persons present. The principal families who supported the services in the Court House were farmers. Among them were the names Barnes, Brown, Dixon, Jackson, Lambert, Wilde, and Ostrander."

In 1825 the Honey Creek circuit included four

locations in Vigo County, Jackson's Jr., Jackson's Sr., Ray's and Barnes's, and eight locations in Sullivan County.

Revs. Aaron Wood and Richard Hardgrave, two prominent Methodist ministers, preached at the Court House between 1826 and 1834. (This fact might be related to the inscription on the round cornerstone from the church at Seventh and Poplar Streets, "ORGANIZED 1826").

The first mention of Terre Haute in the Minutes of the Annual Conferences was in connection with the appointments made at the session of the Annual Conference at Vincennes in September, 1830. Edwin Ray, born in 1803, was received into the Kentucky Conference on trial in 1822 and in 1824 transferred to the Illinois Conference, which then included Indiana. His health failed and he received superannuated relation in 1829. He worked unofficially with the Methodists in the Terre Haute area the first part of 1830. At the 1830 Conference Terre Haute was made a station and Ray was appointed to it. On his way to Conference in the fall of 1831 he was taken ill and died at the home of J. Barnes. (Quite possibly the same Barnes mentioned previously.)

After the death of Ray the Terre Haute Methodists were returned to a circuit and remained in this status until permanently made a station in October, 1835, after John Jackson and three others had pledged and paid $400 toward a permanent church building.

When the town of Terre Haute was laid out in 1816, the planners set aside three plots of ground for public use: A city block, where the Court House is now located, for the seat of government; a plot for a school, & for a church on the corner of Fourth and Poplar Streets, fronting 149 feet on Fourth Street and 142 feet on Poplar Street. This plot was to be

given to the first church group which erected a church building on it.

In 1834 the Methodists took possession of this lot by erecting on it a small brick church which would not accomadate more than 150 persons, naming it the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, commonly called Asbury Chapel. It is believed this is the first church to be named in honor of the founder of American Methodism. It was dedicated in 1835 by Revs. Aaron Wood and M. A. Jewett. The building faced south, and cost $800. Rev. Smith L. Robinson was the pastor, and at the end of the first year of his pastorate (October, 1836) he had 70 members in his church.

In a few years the growth of the congregation made a larger church building necessary, and in 1841 a second Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, more commonly known as Old Asbury, was erected on this same site, facing east. It was an imposing brick structure. Its cost and size are not noted in the histories of that period, but the debt was paid off within four years.

In 1843 a bell was placed in the belfry and for 52 years it called the people to worship.

A small branch church was organized by the Asbury church in 1846 in the north part of Terre Haute and a building known as the Sibleytown church was erected. This did not prove self-sustaining and in 1860 the society was disbanded, the property sold and the proceeds applied on the Centenary church, then in the course of construction.

The Pastor's report to the Quarterly Conference on December 2, 1852, showed that the library consisted of "20 Bibles, 20 Hymn Books, 36 Testaments,

24 spelling books and 50 volumes of the Children's Library, mostly in Series B. The catechism was introduced last week. For some time many of the children have been committing verses for which they hold tickets as reward. There have been received 24 Hymn Books and 200 volumes of Series A of the Children's Library which are ready for distribution as soon as the funds are collected to pay for them." Fifteen years later, in 1867, there were 1200 volumes in the Library.

In 1865, without any separate organization, the Asbury Church proceeded to erect a building known as Centenary Church on the corner of Seventh and Eagle Streets, and finished the basement ready for occupancy. In the fall of that year the organization of Centenary Church was effected, with a membership of over 230.

There is some confusion about the correct names of the two church buildings at Fourth and Poplar Streets. It appears that both were legally known as Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church. Reference to Asbury Chapel usually means the 1834 building and to Old Asbury usually means the 1841 building.

For several years prior to 1891 the project of building a new church to take the place of Old Asbury was discussed. Plans took definite shape under the pastorate of Rev. Isaac Dale, 1889-1893. In the face of many discouragements Rev. Dale persevered in raising a large subscription by his individual efforts.

A lot on the northwest corner of Seventh and Poplar Streets was purchased for $8500, and on May 30, 1894, the contract for the new building was let to J. H. Hoffman for $22,536.13. The total cost of the building is reported to be about $42,000, which includes also the cost of the lot, furnishings and numerous other items.

The dedication of the new building took place from Sunday, May 19, to Monday, May 27, 1895. On Sunday, May 26, the congregation met at the old building for the last time and marched down Poplar Street to the new building. Mrs. Carrie Evans, the oldest member of our congregation at this writing, and still active, was wheeled from the old building to the new in a baby buggy. The dedicatory sermon was preached by our bishop, I.W. Joyce.

The new building was of red brick, with red stone trim, a slate roof, and oak trim inside. The seating capacity of the sanctuary was about 1000, and another 500 persons could be accomodated by opening up the Fellowship Hall on the north of the sanctuary.

Two cornerstones were laid in the new building, One was round, 32 inches high and 34 inches in diameter, and was placed at the base of the round column at the southeast corner. It was moved to the base of the bell tower in the courtyard of the present building in 1969. The inscription on it says, "ORGANIZED 1826 / FIRST / METHODIST EPISCOPAL / CHURCH / 1894". The other cornerstone was a long, narrow, thin slab placed in the east wall. It was quite soft and broke into many small pieces when an attempt was made to remove it during the demolition of the building, and it could not be saved.

With the move to the new building the congregation changed its name to "FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH", and this name was placed in fan-shaped stained glass windows above the two main doors at the southeast corner. During demolition the windows broke into small bits and could not be saved. A number of other stained glass windows were saved, however, and are displayed in our present building.

The lot at Fourth and Poplar Streets was sold

and Old Asbury was eventually torn down. Many persons have wondered why it was necessary to destroy so fine a building. In answer to this question one person said it was in such poor condition that it was not practical to save it. If it was built of soft bricks and/or soft mortar, this explanation is quite plausible.

In 1908 a new parsonage was built at the rear of the church, facing on Poplar. Some years later it was converted to an educational unit, leaving the pastor without a permanent home. On August 31, 1934, the property at 521 South Center was purchased for a parsonage.

The minutes of the First Quarterly Conference on December 4, 1913, show that a committee was appointed to discuss a merger between Centenary Church and First M.E. Church. It was eventually decided that the combined congregation would use the name, "Methodist Temple", that they would build a large church in a downtown location, and that until the new building was completed they would meet alternate months in the two old buildings. Shortly before the completion of the merger, the Bishop told the Merger Committee that the proposed merger had great possibilities, but warned that "a merger like a marriage. It cannot be dissolved. IT IS FOREVER." The merger was completed in 1925.

Differences and difficulties arose which could not be resolved, and the two old buildings could not be sold. In 1929 the merger proved to be indeed like many modern marriages, and it was dissolved. One group, including most of those who had come from the

First M.E. Church, returned to Seventh and Poplar Streets and took with them the name, "Methodist Temple". The rest returned to Centenary and resumed the use of that name.

In 1941 Dr. Young reported that the membership of the church since 1910 had been above 800, and that in 1935-1936 it was 944, and a non-resident inactive list of 110.

By the late 1950s the constant repairs on the old building had become a financial drain. Parking space was scarce, and again the population was shifting, this time to the south with its many suburban areas.

After much study and many long and stormy sessions, a five acre tract on U.S. 41 south of the city was purchased at a cost of $60,000. Ground was broken on October 6, 1968, and the new United Methodist Temple building was dedicated on August 24, 1969.

The building of brick and redwood exterior contains a beautiful sanctuary with a seating capacity of 360 persons, class rooms which can accommodate 350 persons, and a Fellowship Hall with room for 400 persons. There is also a Prayer Chapel, a sacristy, a formal parlor, a music room-library, a well equipped nursery, a kitchen, a general office, and office-studies for the pastor and associate pastor. The Library contains nearly 500 volumes.

The units are built around a landscaped courtyard containing the round 1894 cornerstone from Seventh and Poplar Streets and a bell tower holding the bell from the old building. The tower is topped by a 15 foot cross illuminated at night.

The total cost of this church plant and storage building was $478,518.08, plus the land. The old building was sold for $68,000 and an indebtedness of $325,000 was assumed.

Rev. Charles R. Lane was assigned to this church in June, 1970, and Rev. Mike Biggs was assigned as associate pastor in June, 1976.

The membership the past few years has been around 745. The mortgage on the parsonage at 1001 South Park Drive has been paid off, and the indebtedness on the church reduced to $237,703.59.

How old is our church? How far back can it be traced? To answer this question, another must be asked: How do you define the beginning of a church?

Mr. Robert L. Epps, Chairman of the Commission on Archives and History of the South Indiana Conference, wrote your Historian recently, "The matter of the founding of a church of Methodist origin is often arbitrary. One can date it from the time a circuit rider preached a sermon. One can date it from the formation of a class gathering. One can date it from the actual establishment of a church, which is often signified by an episcopal appointment of that preacher to that station of the circuit."

Can our church be traced back to the time when Jonathan Stamper preached his first sermon at Fort Harrison, or in Vigo County outside the area of the fort? Your Historian believes there are too many un-

answered questions about Jonathan Stamper's stay in this area to justify dating our church back to him.

Can it be dated back to 1813, when a number of farm families in Vigo County met together on the Sabbath? Your Historian believes he has sufficient evidence to justify the claim that our church was begun in 1813, and is tentatively recommending the acceptance of this date.

What about the inscription, "FOUNDED 1816" on the cornerstone of our present building? Your Historian has not been able to find any reliable evidence that this date marked the beginning of our church.

What about the inscription, "ORGANIZED 1826" on the round cornerstone? This is probably correct. It seems quite plausible that the Methodists of Vigo County met informally for worship for 13 years before Rev. Aaron Wood came to Terre Haute and persuaded them they should organize.

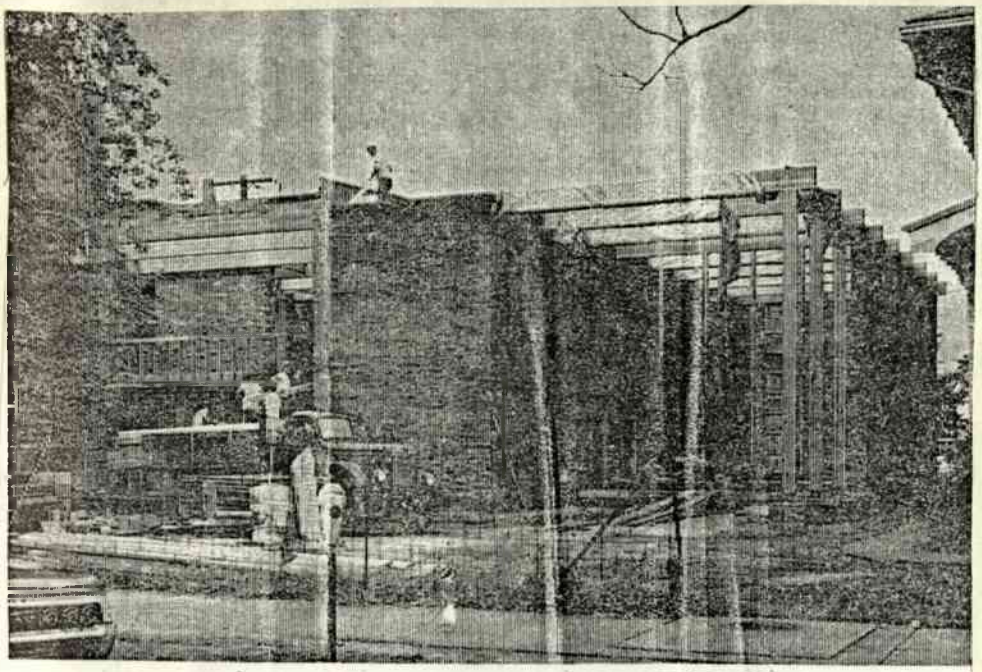
What better way is there to close this discussion of the history of United Methodist Temple than with the words of Dr. Young in 1941:

"The story of Methodist Temple will not be complete without mention of the long and devoted service of laymen who acted in various official capacities for the church. Space does not permit making mention of them. The membership and friends of the church are appreciative of the long and effective service of Miss Enid Royer who came into the staff as secretary December 16, 1917 and has given devotion equal to any of the pastors under whom she served." After Dr. Young wrote these words Enid served the church another 23 years, retiring in June 1964.

Meth. Hdqrs.

Meth. Churches (WV) Trib 12-3-1969

OLD LANDMARK PASSING—Wreckers were busy Wednesday taking down the walls of the old Methodist Temple at Seventh and Poplar Streets. The church served the local congregation from 1894 until Sept. 7 last when the new United Methodist Temple was dedicated on U. S. 41 South. A service station will occupy the corner. Martin Photo.



NEW WESLEY FOUNDATION BUILDING—Construction is under way at 321 N. 7th St. on a new home for The Wesley Foundation, th e Methodist Church on campus for students at Indiana State University and Rose Polytechni c Institute. The $104,000 structure is expected to be completed by September in time for oc cupancy prior to the opening of the fall terms at the two schools. Photo by Martin.

T.H. Churches (Wesley Foundation)
Ind'p'ls. Star
1-17-1965

New Wesley Foundation Building Near Completion

Construction of a new Wesley Foundation Building at 321 N. 7th St. is well underway and is expected to be completed in time for occupancy by the Fall semesters of Indiana State University and Rose Polytechnic Institute.

The new $104,000 construction is designed to serve the more than 1,000 Methodist preference students on the two campuses, according to the Rev. John Robert McFarland, the Foundation's campus minister.

The Foundation is currently occupying a home immediately north of Centenary Methodist Church, formerly utilized by the church as a parsonage.

When a new parsonage was secured some 10 months ago, the Foundation moved into the house, leaving the former Wesley building, two doors north of the church, vacant for wrecking prepartory to the present construction.

Will Grow With Campus.

According to the Rev. Ralph S. Steele, superintendent of the Northwest Conference of the Indiana Methodist Church Area, the Foundation is especially planned "to be of great service to the developing campus."

The "used-face" red brick and glass building is designed to include a chapel, lounge, assembly and recreation room, library, administrative offices and a conference room. The entire complex of service areas is planned around an interior garden.

Significantly, the Foundation building facilities are aimed at offering the Methodist campus student, locally and away from home a place to worship, study and fellowship. Its program is established to also provide wholesome service opportunities for faculty and staff members of both schools as well as the student bodies.

The building will occupy two floors and a basement level, the lounge, library, administrative offices, chapel, lounges and service areas allotted to the ground floor.

The second floor will provide the recreation room facilities, a kitchen and serving areas with the basement reserved for mechanical equipment location, a conference room and other features.

The building was designed by Thomas J. Weigel of Lewis, Shimer and Associates of Indianapolis, with Shelton Hannig of Terre Haute as the general contractor.

The building committee is composed of the Rev. Robert F. DeLong, Centenary pastor and the Foundation director; the Rev. Ralph M. Ross, Rose Polytechnic Institute dean of students and committee chairman; the Rev. Virgil W. Sexton, Indianapolis West District Superintendent of the Indiana Conference of the Indiana Methodist Area; the Rev. Edward S. Vaught, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Church, and Jerry P. Loomis, ISU student from Battle Ground.

T.H. Churches (W)
Ind'p'ls. News
12/25/64

Contracts Are Let For New Chapel

Special to The News

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Contracts totaling more than $103,000 have been signed with three Terre Haute firms for construction of a new Wesley Foundation building to serve Methodist students at Indiana State College and Rose Polytechnic Institute.

Funds for the new building at 321 N. 7th St. were provided from a capital funds program of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church, one of three conferences which provides operating expenses for the foundation.

The brick, block and glass block building of 2 stories and part basement was designed by the Indianapolis architectural firm of Lewis, Shimer & Associates. The general construction contract went to Shelton Hannig, Inc., Terre Haute. Mechanical work will be done by City Plumbing and Heating, and electrical work by AAA Electric, both of Terre Haute.

The building will include a chapel, library-lounge, conference rooms and office for the campus minister.

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West Terre Haute Methodists Prepare To Rebuild Church Wiped Out by Fire

S43153

Reconstruction of the West Terre Haute Methodist Church, which was destroyed by fire March 8, will begin as soon as the congregation has raised $10,000 of the $35,000 needed.

The building committee of the Northwest Indiana Conference, which has surveyed the ruins, has recommended that the new structure be built on the church site, Johnson Avenue and Market Street. It also recommended that the expenditure for the building, not including furnishings, be planned for $35,000.

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INSURANCE on the former building was $15,000, which has been paid and is on deposit in the West Terre Haute State Bank. The Board of Home Missions of the Methodist Church will provide an outright gift of $5,000. The Northwest Indiana Conference has promised to match dollar-for-dollar whatever is raised locally up to $5,000.

The insurance and promised gifts total $25,000. The local church must raise $5,000 to receive the Northwest Indiana Conference gift and an additional $5,000 to meet the $35,000 stipulation of the conference building committee.

The church board of trustees at its meeting to consider means of raising funds decided upon an every-member canvass immediately after Easter. West Terre Haute busines firms already are being solicited.

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GIFTS have been received from churches in Terre Haute and individuals. When the results of the canvass and the gifts received have been totalled, further means of obtaining the necessary amount will be discussed.

Persons or organizations wishing to give to the building fund may mail their donations to the Methodist Church in West Terre Haute or call the pastor, the Rev. A. G. Simmons, at Drexel-4791, and arrangements will be made for some one to collect the donation, it was announced yesterday.

Members of the church began tearing down the ruins the Saturday following the fire. It was expected that this would be completed by Easter. However, rain and inclement weather have hampered the work and it will not be done by Saturday, the pastor said yesterday.

In the maintime Sunday services the being held only in the morning and at the West Terre Haute High School.

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